

Afro Arab conference assails Israel, S.Africa, launches joint fund

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Foreign ministers and senior officials of 24 Afro-Arab states ended a two-day conference here late Tuesday condemning Israel and South Africa and adopting a Kuwaiti proposal to set up a joint Arab-African investment corporation.

The final communique issued by the Standing Committee on Arab-African Cooperation said that the secretariats of the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) would continue contacts to conclude an agreement to "encourage and guarantee investments" in Arab and African countries.

The committee attempts to strengthen ties between the 22-member league and the 54-member OAU, with the aim of ensuring collective support for Arab and African political causes and for developing economic and financial cooperation.

Arab countries, especially those who double as members within the OAU, have tried to isolate Israel from the African continent to pressure it to accept a political settlement with Palestinians.

However, OAU Secretary-General Idi Oumar sidestepped questions at a later press conference about the chances that African states with diplomatic rela-

tions with Israel would break them.

"Those countries which re-established diplomatic relations with Israel did that because of their own circumstances and were making sovereignty decisions," Oumar told the press.

Despite that, he said, the "OAU did not go back on its decision to refrain from dealing with Israel because of its aggression on Arab states and the inhabitants of the occupied territories."

The conference called for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 including Arab Jerusalem, supported the setting up of an independent Palestinian state and urged the Arab League and the OAU to solicit more recognition of the State of Palestine proclaimed by the Palestine National Council, and urged the U.S. to pursue its talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The communique said finance ministers from the two sides will meet shortly to decide its capital and bylaws of a joint Arab-African investment corporation.

Conference sources said that contributions will mainly come from oil-producing Arab states, led by Kuwait.

"Kuwait has presented the proposal in order to translate into reality the long-standing slogans of Arab-African cooperation," Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad told the press conference.

Other economic decisions adopted by the 24-member committee include holding the first Arab-African trade fair in October 1990 and setting up a Arab-African trade zone.

Calling for the crusade against "the racial regimes in Israel and South Africa," the communique urged, bolstered Arab-African solidarity to confront "the alliance between Israel and South Africa in the political, economic, military, nuclear and technological fields."

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, also addressing Tuesday's press conference, echoed the call for more cooperation.

"Current threats make the two group, African and Arab, feel the need for joint (political and economic) solidarity toward all international issues," he said.

APU accuses Iran of hindering peace moves, supports PLO stand

ABU DHABI (AP) — The Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) has denounced Iran and accused it of hindering peace efforts in the Gulf, despite reservations registered by Syria and Libya.

"We denounce unobjective methods and claims used by the Iranian side in dealing with United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, as these methods would hinder peace efforts and negotiations and affirm that the Iranian side does not want to implement the resolution," said an APU communique, issued late Tuesday at the end of its fifth conference here.

The decision was approved after a heated debate between the Iraqi delegation which presented the proposed resolution and the Syrian side supported by the Libyan.

Iran last July 18 accepted Resolution 598 as basis for a peace settlement, and the ceasefire went into effect Aug. 20. But negotiations between the two sides under U.N. auspices for full implementation of the resolution and a peace pact deadlocked.

The APU condemnation of Iran as the party responsible for the stalemate is the first such wide-scale Arab criticism since the new Iranian leadership took over earlier in the month after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The three-day APU conference, attended by 16 Arab parliamentary bodies, also denounced as "inhuman, uncivilised and illegal" practices of the Iranian side against Iraqi war prisoners.

The Arab parliamentarians also welcomed the dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but condemned the

"strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel.

They supported the PLO's readiness for the proposed elections in the Israeli-occupied territories only after the withdrawal of Israeli army and under international supervision.

The APU also declared support to the State of Palestine and to the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned.

The Syrian and Libyan delegations also registered their reservation over the resolution which implied an Arab recognition of Israel.

The resolution on the Palestinian issue however also called for the deployment of all Arab "political, military, economic, cultural and media potential to confront the Israeli enemy."

Kabul welcomes apparent U.S. shift away from war

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan welcomed Wednesday signs that U.S. officials are having growing doubts that Mujahideen guerrillas could achieve a military victory against Kabul's Soviet-backed government.

A government spokesman, reacting to a statement in that effect by an independent think-tank in Washington this week, told Reuters the apparent shift away from seeking a military solution was a positive development.

"It is a sign of a good change in direction (among U.S. officials) if we compare it to the U.S. policy on Afghanistan over the last 10 years," the spokesman said.

"It is a sign that Washington is beginning to accept reality, that there is the government and the Mujahideen, and that any political solution must contain both parties."

"It is a good beginning if Washington is ready to stop arming the Mujahideen and look

for a peaceful settlement," he said, adding: "But so far the United States has only talked and has not taken any concrete actions to show they really want peace."

President Najibullah recently welcomed statements by U.S. President George Bush and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whose countries both arm the Mujahideen, that they would seek a political settlement to the conflict.

Najibullah said their statements would only have real significance once the two countries stopping arming the guerrillas.

The U.S. government is the main supplier of arms and other help to the Mujahideen, who have been fighting a bloody 10-year war against the Afghan government.

Selig Harrison, an Afghan expert at the independent Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said in Washington this week the U.S. government posi-

tion on Afghanistan was in a state of flux, with the Bush administration having increasing doubts about whether the Mujahideen could achieve a military victory.

When Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan last February after a decade of fighting alongside Afghan troops against the rebels, Washington and other Western countries predicted the guerrillas would topple the Kabul government within days.

That has not happened.

The Mujahideen have failed to take Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third largest city, east of Kabul, which they have been attacking with rockets and other weapons since March in the hope of setting up a rebel interim government there.

The Afghan government says similar attempt to attack and take over the eastern garrison town of Khost near the Pakistani border and the city of Kandahar in the south have also failed.

Rebels help starving Sudanese loot U.N. relief train in south

KHARTOUM (R) — Rebel soldiers twice stopped a United Nations train taking food to famine-stricken South Sudan and let hundreds of hungry people loot it, diplomats and relief officials said Tuesday.

They said the U.N., which in April began a major aid operation called Lifeline Sudan, planned to protest strongly to the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) about the looting Sunday, in which some 450 tonnes of food was stolen.

The train, carrying supplies both to army and rebel-held areas, made its first trip only last month. It was delayed for weeks because rail workers feared rebel attacks and the government objected to the amount of food destined for SPLA-held areas.

Both incidents of looting Sunday occurred in rebel-held areas and crowds mainly took supplies bound for government-controlled districts.

In both cases, the diplomats and relief workers said, the SPLA fighters forced the train, travelling at eight kilometres an hour, to stop by standing on the tracks ahead of it.

Elusive home is only 40 metres away for Camp Canada residents

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

RAFAH — Barbed wire doesn't stop the smell of tears or the sound of exploding houses — the smell and sound of the Israeli army's attempts to crush the intifada.

As they listen, the boys of Camp Canada, Egyptian home of the Palestinians the world has forgotten, leave no doubt they support the activists in the thick of the intifada. From their pro-uptisng T-shirts to their anti-Israel rhetoric, it is obvious they sympathise with the stone-throwing youth they are convinced will liberate their country, which many of them can hardly remember.

Their parents, who well remember Gaza, yearn for a homeland they can gaze at but can no longer claim as theirs.

Home is Rafah. Gaza, 40 metres away across two chain-link fences and numerous concertina rolls of barbed wire, Israeli soldiers fatally shot three young men there last Friday, among the latest of Palesti-

nian deaths during the 18-month-old intifada, the uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Egypt-Gaza border bisected Rafah under Egypt's treaty with Israel in 1982, and about 5,000 Palestinians were stranded in Egypt's only refugee camp. Many of the 560 families involved were split, but they were promised they would be with relatives in occupied Gaza within a month.

Since then, the main medium of contact has been the "shouting fence," the international divide across which people shout the latest family news.

Neither Israeli nor Egyptian officials will talk about the seven-year embarrassment of Camp Canada, named for a Canadian peacekeeping unit that once quartered there. Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel said "the issue is under various discussions." Egyptian officials won't even say that.

But residents say an 11-week process is scheduled to begin this week that, if completed,

will return to Gaza 20 Camp Canada families, a total of 67 people, in the first organised repatriation programme.

On four successive days, five families are to enter the no-man's land between the Rafahs and meet with relatives and friends from the other side. Tentative plans call for the first two families to cross next Monday, with two to follow on each of the next nine Mondays.

Under a 1986 agreement, Egypt is to pay each family \$8,000 compensation. Residents said — and sources in Cairo confirmed — that Israel hacked out of its commitment to give each returning family land and housing materials valued at \$9,000.

Evidence of the mood in Camp Canada is that the 20 families agreed to Israel's conditions. They will live with relatives.

After seven years and many broken promises, Camp Canada is an unhappy place. It seethes with emotions, most of them unpleasant: anger, frustration, resentment, resigna-

tion. Much of the resentment is towards the United States, which camp residents perceive largely as siding with Israel to the detriment of people like them.

"The key to our problem is America. The Americans are the only ones who can solve it," said a camp official. "Why don't they do something to make it happen?"

Outside, a group of boys discovered their visitors were Americans. The mood changed quickly from pleasant conversation to bitter confrontation.

Perhaps the camp's one up-beat emotion is hope spawned by the intifada. Every well-dressed camp Canada teenager wears a pro-intifada T-shirt. Teenage girls carry on key chains or wear as pendants inch-long rocks sculpted in the shape of Palestine-Israel. They say the rocks are carved by protesters in Israeli jails and smuggled out of Gaza.

"We're up, up, up," said a main in his mid-20s, sitting in his father's house with his 18-

month-old daughter on his lap. "If these martyrs and their spilled blood don't succeed, then what the hell will?"

"This is a camp of hope," the man said. "We believe if they allow 20 families to go, all of us will go someday."

For many, however, the hope is tempered with scepticism. "We've been told we were going, then no," said a teacher at the Camp Canada school. "I will believe they're going when they're there."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), financed Camp Canada's school, but residents say the Egyptians delayed its construction through drawn-out negotiations. They also refused to allow the PLO to collect garbage in the camp, and residents say Egyptian collections stopped weeks ago, resulting in garbage piles fouling many streets.

The PLO's only real presence remains the school, but since the intifada, support for the PLO has been more open, especially among the young.

As Palestinians, camp residents are foreigners forbidden from government jobs in Egypt's heavily government-dominated economy. Many have not worked for seven years. Others are underemployed or work on day jobs outside the camp.

"I'm an engineer, but I'm working as a carpenter," said Mustafa Kamel 'Aid Haway, who was married in 1984 and now has two sons and a pregnant wife. "But I have to work, because I have a family. It's the uncertainty that is so very sad."

And frustrating. Carpenter Gamil Mohammad, who runs a kiosk with a Palestinian flag fluttering above, talked of smelling the tears against his compatriots across the no-man's land and of hearing the "boom" of houses being destroyed.

He introduced his three small sons and three smaller nephews, saying: "They hope to go to another place. Home."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Somali rebels reject Barre offer

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Somalia Wednesday threw out President Mohammad Siad Barre's tentative proposals for talks to introduce a multi-party political system in this impoverished East African country. The rebel Somali National Movement (SNM) said in a statement faxed to Reuters from London: "The SNM shall not have any dialogue with the Siad Barre regime, nor with any group associated with it. Any call for cooperation, meeting or a forum on the future of the Somalis shall always exclude the Siad Junta." Siad Barre came to power in a coup 20 years ago and has ruled Somalia as a one-party state since 1974. The aging president has been trying to achieve national reconciliation since a major offensive by the rebels last year devastated Hargeisa, Somalia's second largest city. The attack on Hargeisa was followed by three months of heavy fighting in northern Somalia which sent about 400,000 refugees fleeing to neighbouring Ethiopia. Radio Mogadishu said Siad Barre put proposals for a multi-party system to the Somali Socialist Revolutionary Party Central Committee Monday night.

Saudi employee shot in Brussels

BRUSSELS (R) — A chauffeur at Saudi Arabia's embassy in Brussels was clinically dead in hospital Wednesday after being shot in the back of the neck, a police spokesman said. Neighbours found Samir Gahel-Rasoul, 25, unconscious at his home Tuesday afternoon. Police said there had been no witnesses and no one had heard a shot. In March the Saudi spiritual leader of Belgium's Muslims, Imam Abdullah Al Ahdal, and his Tunisian assistant were shot dead in Brussels' main mosque. They had taken a liberal stance over British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" which many Muslims consider blasphemous. Police said that though there was no apparent motive for Tuesday's shooting they could not exclude political or religious reasons.

19 alleged drug traffickers hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Nineteen alleged drug smugglers were hanged in six Iranian cities Tuesday, the second batch of convicts to be executed since the death of the fundamentalist founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, two weeks ago. State-run Tehran Radio said the convicts, sentenced by Islamic courts, were executed publicly before daybreak in Fasa and Shiraz, in the southern Fars province; central Isfahan; Rasht, in the northern Gilan province; southeastern Kerman; and Aak, in the central Markazi province. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the 19 men had been found guilty of smuggling and distributing 730 kilograms of various drugs. Under a new law that took effect in January, any one caught in the possession of even small quantities of drugs faces the death penalty. The law was passed by Majlis, or parliament, in December amid a wide-spread campaign to curb drug abuse in which more than a million Iranians are believed involved.

Ethiopian rebels give ultimatum

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels have threatened to step up their war unless the government responded within a month to their proposals for a peace conference. The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), monitored in Nairobi, said Tuesday the TPLF had addressed an open letter to the government on June 10 containing rebel demands before peace talks could be held. "If the Dergue (government) fails to reply, the oppressed people of Ethiopia will know that it is opposed to peace and for all. They will rise against the Dergue and shed blood for peace," said the letter. Last month Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam offered unconditional peace talks to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) fighting for independence of Ethiopia's northern province, and said the initiative also applied to the TPLF. The EPLF turned down the offer but the "Tigray rebels" based in the province adjacent to Eritrea conditionally accepted it.

Aquino message delivered to Fahd

JEDDAH (AP) — Philippines Foreign Minister Raul S. Manglapus Tuesday delivered a message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd from President Corazon Aquino, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency said the message was handed to Crown Prince Abdullah when he received Manglapus. But it gave no details of the contents. Manglapus was wrapping up three days of talks in Saudi Arabia on bilateral issues and the thorny issue of the Muslim insurgents who seek autonomy in the southern Philippines. Their demands are backed by the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). The Philippines official also met with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef, the agency said. An OIC statement released Monday refused to back a Philippines government plan for settling the issue, which falls short of granting full autonomy to 13 provinces in the region.

Chad radio assails Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad radio Tuesday blamed Libya for the breakdown of talks arranged by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to try to resolve a border dispute. In a commentary on last week's stalled talks over the disputed Aouzou Strip on the Chad-Libyan border, the radio accused Libya of giving "proof-of-its permanent bad faith." The OAU committee meeting in the Gabonese capital Libreville broke up after only about an hour in an argument over whether the question of Libyan prisoners-of-war in Chad should be discussed before the territorial issue. "The Libyans went to Libreville under moral pressure from Africa and they want to give the impression that they are looking for a solution... but they really want to cloud the issue by avoiding the basic problem of the Aouzou Strip," the radio said. Chad and Libya, at odds for 15 years over the strip, signed a ceasefire agreement in 1987 and restored diplomatic ties last October. Chad has recently accused Libya of planning an invasion through Sudan. Libya has denied the charge.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Local programme
18:00 News for the Day
18:20 Local programme
18:50 "Alph"
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Arabic play
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
18:30 La Chance Aut Chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Tante
19:30 News in Arabic
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:37 Dhuhur
16:18 'Asr
18:49 Maghreb
21:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidieh
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Austrian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

A slight rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Aman 15 / 31

Aqaba 23 / 38

Deserts 16 / 36

Jordan Valley 21 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Aman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Aman 31 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Dr. Ali As'ad 897919

NIGHT DUTY

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532925, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

10:00 Dammam (RJ)

10:20 Riyadh (RJ)

10:40 Kuwait (RJ)

10:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

11:00 Calcutta (RJ)

11:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

11:40 Jeddah (RJ)

11:45 Ohadron (RJ)

15:45 Kuwait (RJ)

17:15 London (RJ)

17:30 Larnaca (RJ)

18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:15 Athens (RJ)

18:45 Cairo (RJ)

19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:30 Bangkok (RJ)

20:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

21:25 Dubai, Fujaira (RJ)

01:15 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

11:00 Calcutta (RJ)

11:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

11:40 Jeddah (RJ)

11:45 Ohadron (RJ)

15:45 Kuwait (RJ)

17:15 London (RJ)

17:30 Larnaca (RJ)

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01:15 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Fl

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MUASHER BECOMES INFORMATION ADVISER: Prime Minister Shafiq Zaid ibn Shaker has decided to appoint the Director of Economic and Social Information Centre at the Ministry of Planning, Dr. Marwan Jumli Muasher, to the post of adviser for information affairs at the Prime Ministry. Muasher will also keep his post at the Ministry of Planning. (Petra)

CABINET ENDORSES COOPERATION PACT: The Cabinet has endorsed the minutes of meeting of the Jordanian-Soviet Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Cultural Cooperation which convened in Amman on May 23. The minutes of meeting included a number of recommendations designed to bolster bilateral relations in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. (Petra)

PHOTO EXHIBITION: Minister of Youth Dr. Awad Khleifat Thursday will open a photo exhibition at the Palace of Culture. The exhibition, which is held by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth, contains photos depicting the great role played by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt as well as important documents. (Petra)

5 HURT IN ACCIDENT: Five people have been injured in a road accident which took place between two vehicles on the Amman-Irbid Highway, according to Arabic daily Al-Dustour. Investigation is underway on the causes of the accident. (J.T.)

LIBYAN TEAM TO ARRIVE TODAY: A Libyan delegation led by Health Minister Dr. Mustafa Al-Zaidi will arrive in Amman Thursday. During the visit, the Libyan official will hold talks with Health and Social Development Minister Dr. Zuhair Malhas on means to develop cooperation in the fields of health and medicine industry. (Petra)

NEW CULTURAL SECTION: Greater Amman Municipality has created a special section to be in charge of cultural affairs. A statement said that the decision was taken by the Mayor, Abdul Raouf Al-Rawabdeh, in view of the increasing cultural activities in the Amman area. It said that the mayor's assistant for cultural affairs will be in charge of this new section along with the municipal library, the museums and the information and public relations sections. (Petra)

PILGRIMS ARRIVE IN MA'AN: A total of 191 people from Algeria, Morocco, and France have arrived at the pilgrims' city in Ma'an on their way to perform pilgrimage. Ma'an Governor 'Id Al-Qatameh Wednesday visited Ma'an and inspected the facilities to be presented to pilgrims. (Petra)

BAD FOOD DESTROYED: The public safety committee in Balqa Governorate Wednesday toured a number of commercial stores in the governorate and destroyed a quantity of foodstuffs not fit for human consumption. The committee also toured residential areas in Salt to ensure that cleanliness is observed. (Petra)

RABADI TO ATTEND ALESCO TALKS: Director of Cultural Relations and Information at the Ministry of Education Dr. Farah Rabadi will represent Jordan at the 47th session of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO) due to convene in Tunis in early July. The week-long meetings will deal with ALESCO activities, budget, and future plans. (Petra)

ACC SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP: The first Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries' Soccer League Championship is due to start Friday at Amman's International Stadium in Al-Hussein Youth City. (Petra)

ISESCO council to meet in September

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) will hold its ninth executive council meeting in September to discuss issues connected with the organisation's programmes, according to ISESCO Director General Abdul Hadi Boutaleb. The ISESCO director, who is currently taking part in the Al-Bayt Foundation meetings in Amman, made the statement at a meeting with Minister of Education Abdul Jabbar Nusour and a group of ministry officials. He said that ISESCO's meeting will be held in Rabat, Morocco.

Last year's executive council held a meeting in Amman which was followed later by an ISESCO general conference. Boutaleb briefed the minister on ISESCO's general projects and programmes being executed in member states. He paid tribute to Jordan's contribution to the organisation's activities and its support at last year's general conference in Amman.

ISESCO's general conference meets every three years in a regular session in order to draw up and define general policies and guidelines for the organisation's activities, consider a plan of action, study reports and proposals put forward by member states and the executive council, and to take appropriate decisions on various issues. Boutaleb said.

Nusour, for his part, briefed Boutaleb on the Ministry of Education's programmes at the Arab and Islamic levels. Boutaleb briefed the minister on ISESCO's general projects and programmes being executed in member states. He paid tribute to Jordan's contribution to the organisation's activities and its support at last year's general conference in Amman.

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Al Razi Centre for Special Education opens

Queen urges private sector to contribute to special education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday emphasised the role of the Jordanian private sector in contributing to special education programmes for handicapped children since, she said, this endeavour is a national responsibility.

The Queen was addressing a ceremony marking the formal opening of the Al Razi Centre for Special Education at Jabal Luweibdeh which is privately owned and financed through benefactors and various organisations in Jordan.

The Queen said it was a national responsibility to provide the handicapped children with a natural family-like home that can contribute towards their development and rehabilitation.

Queen Noor toured the different parts of the centre, which was originally established in 1987, met with parents of the handicapped children and inspected various equipment and the services offered to the handicapped.

The centre provides care for the mentally retarded and children with low and minimal retardation. The centre's external section provides educational services, recreational activities, health and social research programmes, while the internal section provides three meals as well as health services and is supervised by qualified teachers in special education and doctors.

At present the centre provides care for 45 children. Officials said that the centre also provides psychological tests and treatment for retardation, speech therapy, training on simple technical skills and experiences, as well as academic education.

In addition the centre organises social and recreational activities, medical and medicinal services, assistance in resolving family problems and training parents on how to treat their children.

The centre's director, Ziyad Sakkiyeh, spoke at the ceremony outlining the main programmes implemented at the centre. He called for further assistance to help finance the rehabilitation programmes for the handicapped children.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and senior officials and relatives of the handicapped children.

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The Queen said it was a national responsibility to provide the handicapped children with a natural family-like home that can contribute towards their development and rehabilitation.

Queen Noor toured the different parts of the centre, which was originally established in 1987, met with parents of the handicapped children and inspected various equipment and the services offered to the handicapped.

The centre provides care for the mentally retarded and children with low and minimal retardation. The centre's external section provides educational services, recreational activities, health and social research programmes, while the internal section provides three meals as well as health services and is supervised by qualified teachers in special education and doctors.

At present the centre provides care for 45 children. Officials said that the centre also provides psychological tests and treatment for retardation, speech therapy, training on simple technical skills and experiences, as well as academic education.

In addition the centre organises social and recreational activities, medical and medicinal services, assistance in resolving family problems and training parents on how to treat their children.

The centre's director, Ziyad Sakkiyeh, spoke at the ceremony outlining the main programmes implemented at the centre. He called for further assistance to help finance the rehabilitation programmes for the handicapped children.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opens the Al Razi Centre for Special Education at Jabal Luweibdeh in Amman (Petra photo)

Second phase of Zarqa and Ruseifa water, sewerage projects completed

ZARQA (Petra) — The first and second phases of a water and sewerage projects for Zarqa and Ruseifa have been completed, according to an announcement by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) here Wednesday.

The announcement said that the two phases cost JD 12.485 million and that work was underway on the third and final phase at the cost of JD 5 million. The

third phase entails laying pipes and sewerage networks at Hashemiyeh, Al-Ghweirah and Hay Al-Husseini districts.

The announcement also said that work is underway on a JD 300,000 project to repair water networks in the region.

Also in Zarqa an announcement by the Social Development Department said that local police and department teams have embarked on a campaign to rid the city of Zarqa of vagabonds and street beggars.

The announcement said that the three-month campaign provides for daily tours of various districts to pick up beggars whose cases will be investigated before steps can be taken to provide them with assistance.

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youth gather at 1918 battle site

TAFILEH (Petra) — A total of 63 youths from Jordan and four other Arab countries gathered at a camp near here Wednesday at the start of five days of activities and voluntary services and cultural programmes.

The camp, organised by the Ministry of Youth, has been set up at Al-Eiss, scene of a 1918 battle between Arab forces under the banners of the Great Arab Revolt and Turkish troops towards the end of World War I.

According to the organisers, the participants in the camp's activities will take part in a variety of sports events, carry out voluntary services at the Alra and

Eiss ancient sites, listen to lectures on the Great Arab Revolt, organise recreational and cultural programmes and tour a number of archaeological sites in southern Jordan.

The participants include 33 Jordanian youths picked from various clubs and youth centres, in addition to 30 participants from Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen, Oman and Bahrain.

The camp activities began with a speech by Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat who said that the camp was part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, in commemoration of the Arab renaissance, and the Arab nation's determination to achieve freedom and unity.

The site of Al-Eiss, he said, witnessed battles involving Arab armies and Turkish troops at one stage of the uprising against the occupation forces in the Arab land.

There were other speeches by the leaders of various groups taking part in the camp.

Later the minister toured a number of youth centres in southern Jordan where he discussed plans and programmes to promote the youth programmes and activities.

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Badran, Keilani begin 2-day inspection of southern regions

KARAK (Petra) — Spain is cooperating with Jordan in studies to introduce amendments to a special device used to gather olives mechanically, with the purpose of reducing the volume of manual work and the cost of gathering the fruit. Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran said Wednesday.

Speaking during a tour of the Kingdom's southern regions, minister said that once the studies are completed they will be placed at the disposal of local farmers to benefit from them.

Badran, accompanied by Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani, toured farming areas in the Qasr and Rabbeh regions near Karak where they met with farmers and heard demands and requests for services.

The farmers presented their views about harvesting methods and requested the Ministry of Agriculture to help them with equipment for harvesting olives and lentils, and to provide heavy machinery.

They told the minister they needed pasturelands for their stocks, agricultural roads and animal feeds at lower cost. They also demanded solutions for problems pertaining to the poultry industry and storage facilities.

The two ministers laid the foundation stone at Rabbeh for the establishment of a centre for research and the transfer of modern technology.

Earlier Wednesday, the two ministers made an inspection tour of agricultural projects in Madaba district, south of Amman, and looked into the work of departments concerned with promoting agricultural development.

The two ministers stopped at the Al-Mushaqqar regional centre for agricultural services where they were briefed on its operations.

The centre provides advice to farmers, determines modern agricultural technology suitable for the region and conducts various tests on seeds and plants.

Keilani and Badran called at Al-Mushaqqar and Waleh agricultural stations which produce improved seeds and new strains of forest and fruit tree saplings.

They later visited fields where experimental processes on the production of improved wheat are going on, and they were briefed on the progress of work.

Badran said that the agricultural stations were of paramount importance to the agricultural development process in Jordan. He called for increased efforts by staff involved in the agricultural extension services, who, normally guide farmers in the use of modern machinery and help them to increase output.

The two ministers who are on a two-day tour of southern Jordan will call Thursday at Disi, Wadi Araba, Aqaba and other areas to inspect Ministry of Agriculture projects there.

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Drivers concerned over projected Cairo-Baghdad land transport route

AMMAN (J.T.) — A projected land transport route between Cairo and Baghdad has created concern to the owners and drivers of trucks that commute between Aqaba and Baghdad between Amman and the Iraqi capital, and meetings are being held in Amman in a bid to safeguard the interest of the Jordanian truck owners, according to a report in Al-Dustour Arabic daily Wednesday.

The report said that Ministry of Transport's Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Simadi has been meeting with representatives of land transport unions in Jordan to discuss the issue, and to try to avert damages to the interests of Jordanian truck owners and drivers.

Simadi said that any agreement on operating the projected land route will have to take into account the interest of the Jordanian truckers, and that transportation operations would have to be divided equally on Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

"Contacts are continuing with the Iraqi and Egyptian authorities to settle the issue and a Jordanian working paper will be presented to the Egyptian and Iraqi authorities in this respect," Simadi said.

The three countries are already linked through the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which operates the Aqaba-Nweibdeh land sea route.

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Enough is enough

TWO SEEMINGLY unrelated reports from two different parts of the world Wednesday have again projected the threats and frustration inherent in the yawning shortcomings in Arab defensive strategies in the Middle East. The first report, carried by an American newspaper, said South Africa was poised to test an intermediate-range ballistic missile developed with Israel's help. The second report, carried by Iran's official news agency IRNA, was not so explicit, but shed some light into the country's ongoing quest to develop a nuclear programme, ostensibly for peaceful purposes. The Washington Post report on South African-Israeli cooperation in developing missiles, (among other things of course), said the weapon to be tested was a modified version of Israel's Jericho II missile. IRNA reported the arrival in Tehran of International Energy Agency (IEA) Director-General Hans Blix for talks on developing nuclear energy. Needless to say Blix's visit has very little to do with Iran's parallel nuclear plans, which are reportedly helped by at least two East bloc states.

While neither the fact that Israel possesses nuclear weapons nor the Iranian quest to develop an atomic arms programme is any closely-guarded secret like the combination to Fort Knox, the two reports underpin one of the major shortfalls in the Arab military strategy. Yet another report Wednesday, of an Israeli air raid on Lebanon, further exposed what can be nothing but a gaping hole in the defensive wall of the Arab World. What else could be the explanation for the obvious immunity with which Israel sends its jets to bomb and rocket the territory of an Arab League member?

There cannot be any more circumventing the reality that the Arab countries in the Middle East, particularly Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, could be easily caught in-between the nuclear threats posed from both east and west if and when Iran manages to push through its clandestine nuclear programme into fruition.

In the last 40 odd years we have seen enough and more of Israeli aggression, arrogance, defiance and immune violations of Arab sovereignty and integrity. The Israeli posture is further bolstered by the Zionist state's nuclear weapon capabilities in the face of Arab moderation and peace overtures. Does someone have to spell it out to the Arab World that as long as the Arabs remain static, resigned to accepting Israel's military might and blaming it on the Zionist state's "strategic alliance" with the United States, there cannot be any meaningful solution to the Middle East conflict except those dictated by the aggressor? The Arab masses at large are asking the question: How long do they have to put up with Israel's open slaps before the leaders will seriously consider revamping and updating their military strategies to such a level that will make the Zionist state hesitate for a moment and think twice before ordering its warplanes into Arab skies?

We in Jordan have always been staunch advocates of moderation and dialogue based on the time-proven philosophy that military might, whether conventional or nuclear, is not the answer to political problems. If anything, we have always pointed out that building military prowess is always at the expense of much-needed development projects for any Third World country like ours. But, can we overlook the glaring truth that such moderation has not paid off with Israel, and, on the contrary, it appears to be an encouraging element to the enemy to strike at Arab targets at will? Can we continue to refrain from telling ourselves and the rest of the Arab World that it is high time we got together and moved to plug in the loopholes in our defences to the extent that nuclear deterrents are in place in Arab states?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All three Jordanian dailies Wednesday launched a strong attack on Israel's iron-fist policy practised against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al Ra'i daily said that since its establishment the Jewish state has caused bloodshed, practised terror and war against the Arab people in Palestine and its neighbouring countries; while its leaders have called peace with the Arabs. The long history of criminal actions and atrocities committed by the Zionists in Palestine over the past 40 years, has not quenched their thirst for blood, the paper noted. It said that the PLO has now accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and renounced terrorism and displayed a genuine desire for peace just to win peace and ensure stability and security for the Palestinians in their own homeland. But the Israelis in reply have escalated their atrocities and stepped up their criminal actions in a manner that leaves no doubt about the intentions of the Zionist movement, the paper added. It said that Israel's adherence to its iron fist policy is largely to be blamed on United States' support for the Jewish state and its condoning of its actions against the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour daily said that Israel's crimes in Palestine could not have continued without a tacit approval of the United States which has to date provided protection for Israel at the Security Council meetings. The paper said that the Zionists clearly displayed their lust for bloodshed at the funeral of a settler killed by the Arab resistance and buried Tuesday. Those attending the funeral called for revenge on the Arabs, forgetting their own terrorist actions that resulted in the death of thousands of Palestinians and the demolition of scores of Arab homes involved in resistance activity, the paper pointed out. It said that the United States has encouraged the Jewish state and the Jewish settlers to pursue their inhuman treatment of the Palestinians, denying them the right to a homeland and peace. The United States which brags about its concern over human rights, and democracy and continues to support such atrocities can not be vindicated from injustice that is beyond human endurance, the paper said.

Hammer and sickle relax on the Iranian anvil

By P.V. Vivekanand

ALARM BELLS should be ringing in American corridors with this week's groundbreaking visit to the Soviet Union by the possible future president of revolutionary Iran, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, and the unmistakable anxiety expressed by both Moscow and Tehran to consolidate relations in all spheres. Despite the upbeat tone in superpower détente heralded by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's pragmatic approach, the sure-footed strategy Tehran and Moscow appear to have adopted to cement bilateral ties should cause headaches for American strategists.

While raising concerns in the West, the Soviet-Iranian rapprochement also has its implications in the Gulf region, which is slowly getting to its feet after eight years of bloody war between Iran and Iraq, and hopes that the countries could now turn their attention to pressing economic and development issues left unaddressed in the coterminous of the war.

It would be naive to shrug off the emerging Soviet-Iranian alliance as an issue to be seen strictly within the context of state-to-state relations. There is no denial of the fact that Soviet attitudes, perhaps understandably so, left a lot to be desired when it came to the regional destabilisation brought about by post-revolution Iran and its eight-year war. It was apparent that Moscow attached great importance to its ties with Iran and was very careful not to do anything to upset the theologians in Tehran; the persistent Soviet refusal to join possible sanctions against Iran as punitive action for its rejection of ceasefire resolution 598 could easily be seen as the most vivid tell-tale sign. It also cannot be overlooked that Moscow took a low-key, none-too-anxious approach to the Iranian crackdown on the Tudeh Communist Party in the early 1980s.

What could possibly be behind the enthusiasm of both Moscow and Tehran and the apparent sense of urgency to move to cement ties even before the end of the 40-day official mourning period for revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini? What is it for both sides?

Let us look at the Iranian scene;

A quick review of developments since Khomeini died June 3 indicates that there cannot be any immediate positive change in Tehran's approach towards international relations, particularly ties with Western Europe and the United States. The issue of Western hostages in Lebanon and the death decree on author Salman Rushdie left behind by Khomeini are only the tip of an iceberg. There is little doubt that even if the two problematic issues were to be solved overnight, there will be more demands from the West on Iran to prove its "good faith" and turn against "international terrorism" — demands that the Iranian leaders could not meet at this point in time. It is even doubtful whether Iran can apply any pressure worth mentioning on its proteges in Lebanon to release the hostages, given the make-it-or-break-it kind of signals coming from the ongoing violent tug-of-war in the country.

It is obvious that Iran cannot be persuaded against, at this point in time, pursuing its goal of a revolutionised Lebanon and this by itself is the biggest hurdle in improved Western-Iranian relations. By the same token, it is no secret that the Soviet Union could not be bothered by what happens in Lebanon. If anything, Moscow

appears to be more than happy to leave it to Syria to handle the situation as it finds fit. And Damascus is playing a double-edged game in Lebanon; it wants to retain its key role in Lebanese affairs against all odds and hopes to apply the brakes on Iranian designs when necessary. (It remains to be seen how effective the Syrians could be when it comes to the inevitable confrontation with Iran over Lebanon).

The Iranians are reassured that the Rushdie affair cannot be an irritant in their ties with the Soviets, who have been studiously silent over the issue as if not to ruffle any religious feathers with Tehran or with their own Muslim minorities in the Central Asian Republics. In short, Moscow has said in so many words that it can be counted upon not to upset the Iranians on the political level while following a "neutral course" in Tehran's relations with the Gulf Arab states. Another strong sign of the Iranian acceptance of the Soviet position came this year when Khomeini extended the rare gesture of receiving a visiting foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union.

Another submerged element on the political scene is the Soviet desire to use Iran-based Shi'ite Afghan rebels as a balancing factor against their Pakistan-based Sunni counterparts. It is relatively a low price for Tehran to agree to a possible Soviet request that the eight-party Shi'ite alliance be persuaded to go along with Moscow's effort to disentangle itself from Afghanistan with a face-saving formula which involves a political role for the Soviet-backed Afghan Communists.

Post-war reconstruction

So, there is no political boogie of contention between Iran and the Soviet Union. Next comes economic ties, with the immediate focus on post-war reconstruction in Iran. The Soviets have expressed keen interest in contributing to the effort, and the many agreements that are expected to be concluded during Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow should spell out the nature of Soviet involvement in rebuilding Iran, including the reopening of a major Iranian gas pipeline to the Soviet Union, which will in turn be more than happy to oblige Iranian requests for arms. Iran has also met with positive Soviet response to its request for expert help in prospecting for oil in the Caspian Sea region.

In short, the Iranians are reassured that the Soviet Union is anxious to forge strong bilateral links and attaches more importance to such relations than any other regional ones. It's green signals almost all the way for Tehran and question marks remain over how far Moscow could be relied upon to act as a restraining factor on Iran.

While the players are the same, it is a different game for the Soviets. On the one hand, the very fact that it shares a very long border with Iran lies at the heart of the Soviet Union's keen desire to enlist the Tehran regime as a staunch ally. No doubt Moscow seeks to ensure that Iran cannot break out of the alliance even if it wanted to do so at a future stage; thus the Soviet acquiescence with the Iranian quest to rebuild its military prowess with East bloc weaponry and to initiate a new era in trade and economic ties with communist countries. Fitting into the scene is also the Soviet keenness to resume purchase of Iranian natural gas.

Apart from the potential political leverage it can exercise in Afghanistan with the help of the Iran-backed rebels, strong links with Tehran will also serve, though to a limited extent, Moscow's quest to pacify Islamic fundamentalist unrest in several of its republics with Muslim minorities. Gorbachev himself has admitted that the recent unrest and violence in Soviet Uzbekistan were proof that Islamic "fundamentalism has bared its teeth."

Ironically, or even funny, as it appeared then, a recommendation sent by Khomeini to the president of the Communist Soviet Union in 1988 to turn to Islam as a solution to its political and economic problems should be seen as a reflection of Iranian awareness of the religious clout it can muster among Soviet Muslims. It followed a report by Iranian media that "roars of slogans in support for Imam Khomeini could be heard all the way in Iran from Soviet Tajikistan and other regions" on a religious occasion.

Trouble for the Arab world?

On the whole, the warmth in Soviet-Iranian relations and increased economic interaction between Moscow and Tehran could spell trouble for the Arab world if the fire-brand theologians in Iran interpret them as the elimination of the Soviet Union as any burden in their quest to spread their revolution. All indications are that Tehran's acceptance of a ceasefire in the war with Iraq was only a stop-gap measure before resuming its quest for regional domination. Indeed, it may take years before Iran dons the warpaint again, but any such move will follow the enactment of a careful scenario aimed at destabilising or at least "neutralising" the Gulf Arab states whose support for Iraq in the war was one of the major problems encountered by the Iranians in their pursuit of religious and political dominance of the region. Apparently, the Iranian thinking goes that Iran should "settle" the Arab house in the east if it is to hope for any success in its avowed Westward march towards Jerusalem.

No doubt, the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping of Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq has cast dark clouds over Iran's goals in that the three other members are now fully committed militarily to step in to help Iraq in the event of a renewed war. But that will not stop Tehran from rekindling the underground fires in some of the Arab Gulf states. The possibility is also strong that Moscow might choose to use its newfound friendship with Tehran as another bargaining chip in its quest for resumption of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

At the same time, some comfort could be drawn from the apparent superpower anxiety to avert regional wars and hopes that Soviet thinking in this context encompasses the Gulf region; it is highly unlikely that Gorbachev, who has clearly repeated his keen desire to see a conflict-free international scene, would do nothing to dampen the Iranian quest. Again, it is a matter of how the eventuality of a resumed conflict in the oil-rich Gulf fits into long-term Soviet policy objectives, including projections that the Soviet Union could turn to be a net importer of oil by the year 1992. No doubt, envoys would soon be leaving Moscow to brief Arab leaders on the shape of things that transpired during Rafsanjani's visit, but they face hard questions in the Arab capitals.

Vietnam puts limits on its version of glasnost

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

HANOI — While Soviet citizens openly criticise their leaders and Poland allows liberalised elections, Vietnam's Communists have fired an editor who printed a short story about an 18th century emperor.

Vietnam, the Communist world's third-most populous nation, has set definite limits to free expression and political change while moving to liberalise its economy.

The list of taboos ranges from public criticism of top leaders and key policies to depicting deceased revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh in anything but a heroic light.

In a recent interview with the Associated Press, Deputy Premier Nguyen Co Thach said a multi-party system was out of the question in Vietnam. He contended that current economic reforms would prevent pro-democracy uprisings such as occurred in China.

"We advocate broadening democracy and reaching a consensus through debate, but we do not tolerate pluralism," party chief Nguyen Van Linh said in a speech in March.

Linh and Thach are key architects of "Doi Moi," or renovation, Vietnam's version of the Soviet Union's glasnost and perestroika reforms. Doi Moi flowered after Linh's rise to power

in late 1986, especially in southern Vietnam, where resentment of Marxist misrule is sharp and widespread.

Journalists hit out at corruption and incompetence, and their exposes got some high-level officials fired. Books and magazines proliferated, some fraying the political system's tolerance levels, others offering once-forbidden sexual fare.

But about six months ago, a backlash appears to have been set in motion, either by reformist leaders to placate hard-liners or simply because the ageing leadership as a whole felt things had gone too far.

Western analysts say that rather than take the broader Soviet road, the Vietnamese

seem to have opted for China's "give the people videos but no votes" approach.

Unlike in China, Vietnamese advocates of democracy have been mostly confined to debate rather than street action. Many have seized upon the firing of magazine editor Nguyen Ngoc last December as a cause.

The editor of the relatively radical and popular Van Nghe — literature and art — was pressured to quit after publishing several short stories by a controversial writer, Nguyen Huy Thiep. One depicted Emperor Quang Trung, a national hero who routed the Chinese two centuries ago, as a man of common foibles and frailties.

Nguyen Dinh Thi, secretary of

the writer's association, said controversy within the 450-member organisation has been "so fierce that people forgot politeness."

Lai Nguyen An, a prominent literary critic, described Ngoc's dismissal as a move by conservatives to deter Doi Moi.

"Sceptical books about our party, socialism are not allowed. Those who tarnish national figures will be severely criticised," he said in an interview.

Nonetheless, changes have been substantial since a decade ago. Theo, political prisoners abound, teen-agers wearing jeans were suspect, and closely escorted foreign journalists were taken to meet what some Viet-

namese disdainfully call "ornamental intellectuals," or government mouthpieces.

Thach said recently that 94,000 inmates of re-education camps had been released over the past 10 years and only 120 political prisoners remained.

Relations between state and religious groups have improved. In February, the government allowed a group of prominent academics critical of education standards to open Vietnam's first private university.

The founders of Thang Long University in Hanoi say the government is not interfering with their curriculum or their funding, which comes from student fees and contributions by Vietnamese living abroad.

A stroke becomes a self-inflicted wound for Irish Premier

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

DUBLIN — Calling a sudden communist must at the time have looked like a "stroke" — one of those cueing, bolt-from-the-blue moves that occasionally enliven Irish politics.

It became a self-inflicted wound that, Prime Minister Charles Haughey acknowledges, may yet prove fatal to his hold on power.

Haughey needed to gain three seats to claim a majority. Instead, when the results were completed last Saturday, he had lost three.

The man known as the canniest Irish politician of his time said he would stand again as the Fianna Fail Party's candidate for 'Taoiseach' (prime minister), and he said he expected to win.

"Reasonably certain," he qualified in the next breath.

To the estimation of Conor Cruise O'Brien, writer, academic and no lover of Haughey, the prime minister now suffers from "diminished authority and abated charisma."

"Quite simply, his political judgment is now in question and, with it, the wider matter of his general competence as leader," John A. Murphy, a professor of history at Cork university, wrote in the Sunday Independent.

Fianna Fail, said James Downey, editor of the New Nation magazine, may owe before to accept that it is just another party, not the "warriors of destiny" as it claims in its name.

Haughey, 63, three times Prime Minister of Ireland, entered the legislature in 1957 when the party's founder, Eamon de Valera, was prime minister.

"Whenever I wanted to know what the Irish people wanted," de Valera said in 1922, "I had only to examine my own heart and it told me straight off what the Irish people wanted."

Haughey examined the opinion

polls, which showed him as the darling of 54 per cent of the voters in February, and concluded that the people wanted to give him a majority in the dail (parliament).

Inflation was low, unemployment had declined, interest rates were moderate and, Fianna Fail strategists figured, the opposition had no heart for an election.

"It was a kind of stroke and

one so synonymous with politics a la Fianna Fail," James Morrissey wrote in the Sunday Independent. "But like so many strokes, it simply didn't work."

When the politicians hit the doorsteps for the three-week campaign, they found the voters angry about cuts in the health service, peeved about having to buy a license to fish, and receptive to the programmes of the

left. The Labour Party and the Workers Party were the big gainers in the election, adding 7 seats to a combined total of 22, plus the likely support of one Democratic Socialist and Ireland's first Green Party legislator.

But the balance of power lay where it always has: with Fianna Fail, 77 seats, and Fine Gael, 55 seats. Low-level negotiations ab-

out forming a government — something both sides had sworn last week they would not do with the other — began last Sunday.

Beyond the issues, Haughey's reputation may have been a bar to a majority.

"They hover around him the

aura of deals and strokes contributing to popular cynicism about politicians," Murphy wrote.

It was an old concern.

When Haughey was making his successful run for Fianna Fail leader in 1979, Fine Gael leader Garret Fitzgerald spoke of Haughey's "flawed pedigree."

"His motives can be judged ultimately only by God," Fitzgerald said in the dail, "but we cannot ignore ... that these motives have been widely impugned."

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SEPT / SEPT

Destiné à donner au CONSEIL de COOPERATION ARABE ses premières réelles missions, le sommet des quatre chefs d'Etat du CCA s'est achevé vendredi à Alexandrie par l'adoption de résolutions préconisant le développement des relations économiques et sociales entre la Jordanie, l'Egypte, l'Irak et le Yémen du Nord. Le roi Hussein et les présidents Mubarak, Saddam Hussein et Abdallah Saleh ont ainsi signé une série d'accords de coopération dans les domaines juridiques et de l'aviation civile, ainsi qu'une convention sur la libre circulation et la priorité à l'emploi des travailleurs des pays membres. Le secrétaire général du CCA, M. Helmi Nammar, a par ailleurs confirmé le choix d'Amman comme siège de l'organisation et indiqué que son budget avait été fixé à deux millions de dollars. La plupart des observateurs, qui voient dans le CCA une "union des pauvres", ont surtout retenu de la conférence les déclarations et prises de positions politiques. Ainsi du rappel de la fidélité du Conseil aux organismes de la Ligue arabe, et notamment à la lettre du Pacte de défense commune. Si le sommet a institué une coopération permanente entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères des "Quatre", il s'est gardé de renforcer l'union militaire que semblait souhaiter Bagdad, depuis la création du CCA le 16 février dernier. Refusant de se transformer en axe politique, comme l'a rappelé à plusieurs reprises Hosni Mubarak au cours de la réunion, le Conseil a néanmoins appelé au retrait de "toutes" les forces étrangères du Liban, proclamé sa solidarité avec l'Irak face à l'Iran et enfin réaffirmé son soutien à l'intifada et aux résolutions du sommet arabe de Casablanca sur la question palestinienne.

Condamnée par le sommet du CCA, la répression israélienne dans les TERRITOIRES OCCUPÉES s'est accrue cette semaine, notamment contre les organisations religieuses. A quelques jours du début du haj, Tel Aviv a en effet décrété que trois mouvements islamiques, Hamas, Jihad et Hezbollah, sont désormais considérés comme des "organisations terroristes". En clair, les troupes d'occupation pourront arrêter et automatiquement accuser leurs militants d'activité terroriste. Militants, qui devront apporter la preuve du contraire pour recouvrer la liberté, selon les termes mêmes de la radio israélienne. L'accentuation de la répression s'est traduite également ce week-end par un jour bilan: sept Palestiniens et un colon israélien ont été tués en Cisjordanie et à Gaza. Alors que M. Shamir a promis aux radicaux d'utiliser la "poigne de fer" pour retrouver les meurtriers du colon d'Aniel, le général Dan Shomron, chef d'état-major de l'armée israélienne, a estimé qu'il n'existait "aucun moyen pour lutter contre les aspirations des Palestiniens à un Etat indépendant." (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Train. La Jordanie et l'Irak envisagent de construire une voie ferrée reliant Aqaba à Al-Haditha, à 400 kilomètres de la frontière jordanienne. Le coût de ce projet atteindrait 1,9 milliard de dollars, dont 1,35 milliard pour la seule construction de la voie, longue de 1130 kilomètres, a indiqué samedi à Amman le directeur adjoint de la compagnie de chemin de fer du Hedjaz. Selon M. Mou'amen Khalil, la ligne devrait permettre de transporter dix millions de tonnes de marchandises et deux millions de demi-voyageurs par an. Aucune décision n'a été prise jusqu'à présent quant à l'étude de rentabilité qui devrait être prochainement lancée, a-t-il précisé.

Privé. Le conseil des ministres a donné son feu vert le week-end dernier à la création d'universités privées, afin de permettre au nombre croissant de bacheliers de poursuivre leurs études en Jordanie. D'après les statistiques du ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, les quatre facultés d'Etat accueillent en effet moins de 50% des diplômés du secondaire. La décision du gouvernement vise également à freiner la sortie de devises du pays. Une hématologie financière estimée à quelque 125 millions de dollars.

Voyage. Vingt-six étudiants et étudiants, majors de leurs promotions cette année à l'université de Jordanie, s'envoleront mardi pour Paris. Organisé par l'ambassade de France à Amman, leur séjour comportera notamment la visite d'entreprises, dont l'Aérospatiale et Airbus-industries à Toulouse, ainsi qu'une rencontre avec M. Leclercq, ancien ambassadeur en Jordanie. Ils s'entreprendront également avec le président de l'Institut du monde arabe, Edgard Pisani, avant leur retour, prévu le 11 juillet.

Anticipés. L'élection présidentielle et le référendum constitutionnel, initialement fixés au 18 août prochain en Iran, se dérouleront simultanément le 28 juillet, a annoncé lundi le journal pro-gouvernemental "République islamique". La date des deux scrutins a été avancée en raison de la nomination d'Ali Khamenei en qualité de "guide" de la République. Jusqu'à présent, seul le président du Parlement, Ali Akbar Hachemi-Rasfandjani, a officiellement présenté sa candidature à la présidence.

Désertification. Le Maroc lancera en juillet une gigantesque opération nationale de reboisement pour lutter contre la désertification. Soixante millions d'arbres devraient ainsi être plantés pour freiner la progression du Sahara vers le nord du pays. Les autorités marocaines ont également invité la communauté internationale à tenter de trouver une parade à la disparition progressive de l'arganier, essence menacée par ce phénomène climatique.

Droits de l'homme. Le quatrième séminaire sur l'enseignement et la défense des droits de l'homme dans le monde arabe a ouvert ses travaux lundi à Syracuse en Italie. Réunis par l'Institut international de sciences criminelles, une quarantaine d'enseignants et de spécialistes des pays arabes, dont six Jordaniens, doivent notamment débattre des droits de l'homme dans l'Islam. Par ailleurs, les présidents des ligues tunisienne, algérienne, marocaine et mauritanienne des droits de l'homme ont annoncé dimanche que le congrès constitutif de "l'union maghrébienne" se tiendrait du 6 au 8 octobre prochains à Tunis.

Et de l'animal. Le Japon, Dubaï, l'Afrique du Sud, la Guinée Equatoriale et Hong-Kong ont été condamnés lundi à Genève par la cour internationale des droits de l'animal. Les cinq Etats ont été reconnus coupables de participation au commerce de l'ivoire et de complicité dans le massacre des éléphants par un "jury" de journalistes spécialistes de l'environnement. Le verdict, symbolique, a été lu par l'écologiste suisse Franz Weber, organisateur du procès.

Centenaire. Près d'un demi million de personnes, dont l'ancien président américain Ronald Reagan, ont assisté samedi soir à Paris à un immense spectacle organisé par la ville à l'occasion du centenaire de la tour Eiffel. Cinq mille figurants, acrobates, jongleurs, danseurs et musiciens ont défilé au pied de la "Dame de fer", éclairée par six mille projecteurs multicolores, retraçant l'histoire de la capitale française depuis 1789. La soirée s'était ouverte par cent coups de canon et une "Marseillaise" interprétée par le ténor espagnol Plácido Domingo. Participaient également au spectacle: Johnny Hallyday, Mireille Mathieu, Charles Trenet et Stevie Wonder.

Idee. Fini le coup de langue sur le timbre-poste. Les Canadiens disposeront dès le 30 juin d'un remplaçant enduit d'une gomme sensible à la pression du doigt, qu'il leur suffira de détacher de son support et d'apposer sur l'enveloppe. Il leur en coûtera cinq dollars par carnet de douze timbres pour éviter le goût de la colle.

Ca mord? Deux jeunes pêcheurs de Reims, dans l'est de la France, ont "décroché" dimanche un nouveau record du monde d'endurance de pêche à la ligne, en restant deux jours et deux heures d'affilée à scruter leur bouchon. Les deux mous du tir du canal de la Marne une trentaine de kilos de poissons... qu'ils ont remis à l'eau.

Les pieds, les poings et la tête

Le tae-kwon-do: tout le monde en raffole

45 000 Jordaniens le pratiquent dans les 45 centres d'entraînement civils et militaires du royaume.

Art martial voisin du karaté et importé de Corée du Sud, le tae-kwon-do est devenu en une dizaine d'années

un sport presque aussi populaire que le football. Sous l'impulsion du prince Hassan, ceinture noire 4e dan, qui le premier passa la tenue blanche du tae-kwon-doka.

Ils sont une cinquantaine, pantalon et chemise en coton blanc réglementaires, à courir à droite et à gauche sur le tatami du centre d'entraînement de Djebel Amman, près du premier cercle. Une cinquantaine de garçons et de filles, dont une grande majorité d'enfants turbulents et bruyants. Quelques parents sont assis sur un banc près de l'entrée du gymnase et attendent le début du cours. Lorsque le "maître" pénètre à son tour dans la salle, il lui suffit de frapper une fois dans ses mains pour obtenir alignement parfait et silence complet.

Les bras serrés le long du corps, Ahmed, 5 ans, penche la tête d'un coup sec pour saluer l'entraîneur comme l'exige le rituel des arts martiaux. Puis il lève la main droite et du haut de ses quatre vingt quinze centimètres prononce le serment du tae-kwon-doka... jordanien: "J'apprends le tae-kwon-do. J'obéis à son esprit. Je jure mon amour à mon pays et à mon roi. Je suis la voie de la justice et de la vérité. Je respecte mes maîtres de tae-kwon-do et, après les tests de connaissances, je restai fidèle à ses objectifs". Alors seulement

l'échauffement peut commencer. L'entraînement proprement dit dure près d'une heure, et ce trois fois par semaine, en fin d'après-midi. L'année est rythmée tous les mois ou deux mois par les contrôles de niveau et les passages de ceintures. Du blanc jusqu'au noir, dont révent tous les tae-kwon-dokas en herbe.

Le boum

Séduits par la discipline qui préside à la pratique de ce sport, les parents d'Ahmed, comme deux cents autres familles de la capitale, ont choisi le centre de Djebel Amman pour initier leur rejeton au tae-kwon-do. "La popularité du club tient surtout au fait que son responsable est l'épouse du maître sud-coréen Chen Chiu-Hwa", explique son trésorier. Un patronyme familier à presque tous les Jordaniens. Et pour cause, puisqu'il désigne celui qui fut l'instructeur du premier tae-kwon-doka du royaume, en la personne du prince Hassan, dont il demeure l'ami intime.

Née au milieu des années 70, la passion du prince héritier pour le sport national de Corée du Sud



Samer Kamal dans ses œuvres. Ceinture noire 4e dan, ce militaire de 23 ans occupe la fonction de capitaine de l'équipe nationale de Jordanie.

esi à l'origine de l'extraordinaire développement du tae-kwon-do en Jordanie. Aux clubs universitaires et militaires, dans lesquels quelques férus jouaient des pieds et des poings, est venue s'ajouter, en 1979, la fédération nationale. Décidée à promouvoir le "pied-poing-lète" (traduction littérale), elle s'est rapidement dotée d'un comité directeur prestigieux. S'y côtoient, auprès du prince Hassan, neuf personnalités de premier plan, parmi lesquelles le président de la compagnie aérienne Royal Jordanian, Ali Gandour, le général de brigade Al-Tayeb ou encore l'ancien ministre des Finances et ex-député Moussa Abou Rajeb.

"Au tout début, ce souvient le secrétaire général de la fédération, Majid Mansour, nous n'avions que deux centres d'entraînement et guère plus de 3 000 adeptes, militaires inclus. Aujourd'hui, 45 000 enfants et adultes, dont 1 000 femmes, sont inscrits dans les 45 salles que nous avons ouvertes dans tout le royaume". Un boum qui oblige les clubs à ouvrir leurs portes six à sept jours par semaine et fait du tae-kwon-do le deuxième



Samer Kamal dans ses œuvres. Ceinture noire 4e dan, ce militaire de 23 ans occupe la fonction de capitaine de l'équipe nationale de Jordanie.

sport du pays, derrière l'indétrônable football. Dans la plupart des écoles primaires, il fait partie des activités proposées aux élèves. "J'avais le choix entre la musique, la gymnastique et le tae-kwon-do", raconte Mazen, 10 ans, qui s'est lancé il y a deux ans. "Les deux premiers ne me plaisaient pas du tout", poursuit-il.

Sous la présidence du prince Hassan et suivant les conseils de "maître Chen", la fédération a rapidement institué deux championnats nationaux annuels. "Ces compétitions nous ont permis de mettre sur pied une équipe nationale dans les huit catégories de poids du tae-kwon-do", explique Majid Mansour. La recette était bonne, comme en témoignent les soixante-cinq trophées glanés ces dix dernières années, dont les deux médailles de bronze remportées de Séoul l'an dernier par le capitaine de la formation nationale, Samer Kamal (58 à 64 kg) et Toufic Raji (plus de 83 kg).

Bien que le tae-kwon-do ne soit pas inscrit au nombre des sports olympiques, l'exploit fut salué par le roi lui-même et con-



Samer Kamal dans ses œuvres. Ceinture noire 4e dan, ce militaire de 23 ans occupe la fonction de capitaine de l'équipe nationale de Jordanie.

gratifier de nouvelles recrues vers les tapis de sol. "Sans le prince Hassan, nous n'aurions jamais pu parvenir à nous hisser parmi les huit meilleures équipes du monde", affirme Mikheil Assaf, l'entraîneur du "hui-jordanien". Un entraîneur heureux, qui s'apprête à envoyer deux de ses joueurs aux 3e Jeux internationaux, qui rassembleront les meilleurs formations de la planète en RFA à partir du 23 juillet.

Piutôt cher

Malgré ses bons résultats internationaux et les stages en Corée ou à Taiwan dont bénéficie désormais la formation nationale, la fédération jordanienne de tae-kwon-do se plaint de la stagnation de son budget. "Le ministère de la Jeunesse nous a alloué 140 000 dinars pour 1989, soit la même enveloppe que l'année dernière, alors que le nombre des licenciés continue de s'accroître", souligne son secrétaire général.

La pratique de ce sport allège surtout le portefeuille des parents. L'inscription à Amman coûte 20 dinars, dont 10 pour

l'achat de la tenue et 3 dinars prélevés par la fédération. Tous les deux mois, les contrôles de connaissances sont facturés 7 dinars. "Et il y a sept ceintures à obtenir, sans compter les passages de dan", précise une mère de famille particulièrement avertie.

Rares cependant sont ceux qui décident de renoncer à poursuivre l'instruction de leurs chères petites têtes brunes. Pas plus d'ailleurs pour des raisons financières que pour le danger que peut représenter la pratique du tae-kwon-do. Contrairement à son cousin le karaté, le coup de pied ou de poing doit en effet être directement porté à l'adversaire. "On est protégé par un casque, des brassières, des genouillères et une coquille, explique le numéro un jordanien, Samer Kamal. Ça ne m'a pas empêché de perdre deux dents dans un combat", ajoute-t-il.

Exigeant une excellente santé physique, le tae-kwon-do demande également des nerfs solides. Notamment pour éviter l'usage abusif de la force qu'il procure à l'initié. "Nous interdisons à quiconque de porter sa tenue hors des salles d'entraînement, soutient Majid Mansour. De même que nous ne concevons ce sport que dans les limites d'un loisir. Le tae-kwon-do enseigne le respect d'autrui, et cultive la loyauté et obéissance envers l'instructeur et, au-delà, envers les supérieurs et le gouvernement", insiste-t-il.

La réalité s'écarte parfois de ces principes. Certains tae-kwon-dokas reconnaissent à demi-mot qu'ils considèrent leur sport comme un moyen d'auto-défense sinon comme le moyen de s'affirmer dans leur groupe d'amis.

Alain Renon.

Le pèlerinage débute dimanche

"J'ai du mal à m'endormir"

Des centaines de milliers de musulmans du monde entier s'apprêtent à confier vers les plus hauts lieux saints de l'Islam, la Mecque et Médine. Quinze mille Jordaniens, Palestiniens des territoires occupés et croyants d'Israël, prendront le chemin de l'Arabie Saoudite à partir de dimanche, afin d'accomplir le pèlerinage, Haj, qui fait partie des cinq piliers de la religion musulmane.

"J'ai du mal à m'endormir, tellement je suis tendu". A quelques jours de son départ pour le Haj, Abou Akel est ému. A 56 ans, il va effectuer son premier pèlerinage à la Mecque et Médine, conformément aux principes fondamentaux de l'Islam. Le Coran en fait effectivement un devoir pour tout croyant, au même titre que la profession de foi (Chahada), le jeûne (Sawm), la prière (Salat) et l'aumône (Zakat ou Cadeau).

"J'y pensais depuis trois ans, poursuit Abou Akel, dont le départ en bus est prévu pour le 28 juin. Comme un grand nombre de pèlerins, il a décidé de rester sur place pendant une vingtaine de jours pour rapporter à sa femme et ses enfants des cadeaux, tels que des tapis de prière. Si ces proches ou l'accompagnent pas, c'est qu'un tel voyage lui coûte plus de 700 dinars. "L'inscription et le billet représentent à eux seuls 356 dinars, précise-t-il. Le ministère des Affaires religieuses nous a conseillé de n'emporter en plus que 360 dinars environ".



Abou Akel ne sera pas seul pour autant. Sa famille, les Obaidat, occupera quatre des 300 bus affectés par la Jordanie auprès de 17 compagnies de transports publics. Comme eux, il s'apprête à passer deux journées difficiles dans la chaleur et la poussière avant de rejoindre Médine, première étape du Haj.

Le Haj en chiffres

En 1988, 11 000 musulmans avaient effectué le pèlerinage sous la tutelle jordanienne, dont 500 Palestiniens des territoires et 5 000 d'Israël. Cette année, 1 000 viennent de Gaza, 2 000 de Cisjordanie et 5 000 de l'Etat bérou. Parmi les 15 000 pèlerins enregistrés par le royaume, près de 53% sont des femmes. Une trentaine de convois, constitués de 300 bus acheminant 14 000 d'entre et en Arabie Saoudite. Par ailleurs, quelque 16 000 pèlerins turcs feront halte en Jordanie du 22 au 26 juin. Avant l'instauration des quotas par Ryad, le nombre des pèlerins jordaniens et palestiniens oscillait entre 30 000 et 35 000.

Elections européennes

Rose, vert et noir

Les socialistes, les verts et l'extrême-droite ont marqué des points jeudi et dimanche derniers lors des élections des 518 députés du Parlement européen de Strasbourg.

Dans la plupart des 12 pays de la CEE, les électeurs ont favorisé la gauche non communiste et les écologistes. Les socialistes passent de 166 à plus de 180 sièges et résistent le groupe le plus important du Parlement européen.

Les verts ont gagné une dizaine de sièges, essentiellement grâce à la poussée des écologistes français, conduits par Antoine Waechter, mais aussi à leurs bons scores en Italie et en Belgique. Autre percée, celle de l'extrême-droite ouest-allemande qui, avec plus de 7% des voix, enverra 6 ou 7 députés à Strasbourg. Pour la première fois en RFA depuis la guerre, un parti

d'extrême-droite a franchi la barre des 5% lors d'une élection nationale.

Les élections européennes ont par ailleurs bousculé des partis au pouvoir: la coalition chrétienne-démocrate d'Helmut Kohl, en RFA, perd 8 points par rapport à 1984; les conservateurs britanniques se sont faits devancer de 5 points par les travaillistes; en Grèce, où l'oo votait aussi pour les Législatives, le Parti socialiste d'Andreas Papandreu a été battu par les conservateurs de la "Nouvelle Démocratie"; en France enfin, la liste du socialiste Laurent Fabius n'a réalisé que 23,69% des voix face aux 23,58% de Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (UDF-RPF). Simone Veil (Centre) n'obtient que 8,35%, le PC 7,85%. Le Front national cumule 11,67% des suffrages et les Verts 10,61%. (D'après Agences).

Le vote français à Amman

Sur 102 électeurs français inscrits sur les listes électorales à Amman, 42 ont pris part au vote de dimanche. Les résultats, en nombre de voix, sont les suivants: Parti communiste: 1; Opposition UDF-RPR: 11; Liste Simone Veil: 3; Parti socialiste: 12; Ecologistes: 8; Extrême-droite: 7.

Tennis

1er open de Jordanie

Amateurs de passing shot, volée et autres performances tennisistiques, rassurez-vous: le temps ne vous paraîtra pas long entre Roland Garros et Wimbledon. Le premier open de Jordanie a débuté mardi sur les courts de Sport City, à Amman. 66 joueurs ont répondu à l'appel de candidatures lancé par la Fédération jordanienne de tennis. Ce premier tournoi international est réservé aux simples hommes, mais sera suivi des mois prochains par un open simples dames puis double mixte. Une vingtaine d'étrangers ont sauté sur l'occasion et tenteront peut-être leur chance contre Hani Alali ou Haid Ichadi, respectivement premier et deuxième meilleurs joueurs jordaniens.

Pour cette grande première, l'organisation reste informelle. Jusqu'aux demi-finales, prévues pour lundi prochain, les concurrents arbitrent eux-mêmes leur match et pas l'ombre d'un ramasseur de balle sur les trois courts où les parties se déroulent simultanément. La Fédération jordanienne espère encourager le tennis grâce à une saison spectaculaire. Le royaume ne compte que 400 joueurs répertoriés dans une dizaine de clubs. Seuls une douzaine d'élus ont atteint un assez bon niveau pour concourir dans les grands tournois internationaux.

Matchs sous les jours ouvrables jusqu'au 27 juin prochain, courts de sport city, entrée gratuite.

"Hot Ice" en concert

Quatre glaçons brûlants

Le groupe jordanien "Hot Ice" se produit ce soir dans l'amphithéâtre des jardins du roi Abdallah, au wadi Saqra à Amman. Un concert pour répertoire original, qui restituera les rythmes les plus purs, du blues au reggae.

Il sont quatre. Trois musiciens et une chanteuse, qui ont rapporté de Grande-Bretagne le goût et les rythmes du jazz, les fractures du reggae et la langueur du blues. Héritier de Stevie Wonder, d'Elton John ou encore de Paul McCartney, le groupe "Hot Ice" n'en a pas moins sa propre personnalité et joue en concert son répertoire.

De l'ampleur des tonalités du blues, à la richesse des rythmes jazzy en passant par un reggae haut en couleur, ce jeune groupe nous livre une égale qualité d'expression. On aimera les brises du "fast beat" soutenus par les accents profonds des résonances électroniques où s'installe la voix brûlante de la chanteuse, Rania Kambawi.

"Hot Ice" s'oublie pas ses racines et mélange les genres. La musique arabe côtoie les sons électroniques, le oud se marie à la



Rania Kambawi (chant), Qousai Zreikat (basse), Moussa Faza (compositeur et keyboards) et Nader Faza (batterie).

batterie dans le mode hijazi. "On croit très fort à l'héritage de la musique arabe", déclare Rania. "Hot Ice" lance le défi de régénérer une tradition en ne lui refusant pas les apports extérieurs.

Sabine Demain.

Mots croisés

par Florence Moutell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: pour changer du noir et blanc. 2: hostile. 3: petit ruisseau; bouger. 4: tirers. 5: pas de feu; repose allongé. 6: article; récolte. 7: font la guerre; article. 8: infinitif; réfléchi. 9: ille; au tennis. 10: épluché; rent.

Verticalement.

A: en mnd. B: Organisation des Nations-Unies; raconte. C: ici. D: susceptible. E: ne plura pas; article. F: arbres; pronom. G: tellement; étendue d'eau. H: en dehors des lieux. I: bâtir. J: manque; l'un des points cardinaux.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Seize the day, de Fielder Cook, avec Robin Williams, Joseph Wiseman et Jerry Stiller. Le chômage, la pauvreté, les tuelles qui se succèdent, un mariage déliquescence, un père qui le rejette... ou la vie d'un raté.

Centre américain, jeudi 22 et dimanche 25 juin à 19h00 ten anglais.

Roy Orbison and friends. Quand une caméra s'invite à une soirée rock and roll au "Cocoon Grove" de Los Angeles, où Orbison fait le "boeuf" avec quelques amis, tels Jackson Browne, Elvis Costello, Bruce Springsteen ou encore Tom Waits...

Songe d'une nuit d'été, d'Ingmar Bergman, avec Ulla Jacobson et Gill Nafar. Haya arts centre, jeudi 22 juin à 20h00 ten italien.

Ciné-Club. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 22: Jaws; Looking for master Goodbar; La rue vers Fort; Master Friday; Picnic at Luring Rock.

Vendredi 23: Casablanca; The party; Open season; Guys don't dance; Seven Samurai. Samedi 24: Metropolis; A fish called Wanda; Being there; Les cadavres ne portent pas de costards.

Dimanche 25: Woman in red; Jeremy Johnson; 1984; Milagro; bean field; Brazil. Lundi 26: Radio days; Full metal jacket; This property is condemned; Gorillas in the mist; Play it again, Sam.

Mardi 27: Frankenstein Junior; Kagemusha; Coming to America; Colour of money; Hanna and her sisters.

Mercredi 28: Nostalgia; Amarcord; Running man; The big town; Accidentally

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: coloration. 2: inamical. 3: ru; branler. 4: traciara. 5: un; gli. 6: la; glanage. 7: armées; le. 8: ir; miré. 9: Ré; set. 10: pèlerin.

Verticalement.

A: circulaire. B: ONU; narre. C: la. D: ombrageuse. E: rira; le. F: accacias; se. G: tant; mer. H: illégitime. I: ériger. J: rate; est.



Eskimo children love the new visitors

Arctic village becomes Kathmandu of north

By Russell Blinich
Reuters

RESOLUTE, Northwest Territories — The Parka-clad Eskimo family — child, father, and mother with baby strapped on her back — weren't interested in the knick-knacks, cups and spoons at the front of the Hudson's Bay shop.

While they busied themselves stocking up on groceries, the manager of the general store in this remote Arctic outpost explained that the souvenirs were really for the tourists.

Tourists? "Yes. They want something that says 'resolute' on it, so they can say they've been to the most northern community," store manager Shawn Green said, explaining why his stock of "resolute" T-shirts were sold out.

The tourists are really explorers, adventurers and scientists who are flocking in increasing numbers to the tiny community on Cornwallis Island, 2,082 miles from Montreal and accessible only by air.

As Kathmandu is to Mount Everest, this town of less than 200 residents is used as a base by those who come each spring to explore the Arctic and the North Pole.

"We call it the silly season," said Chris Craft, Manager of Bradley Air Services, which provides a range of support and emergency services to the expeditions.

In what seems a revival of the 19th century fascination with the North Pole, there has been an explosion of Arctic expeditions — ranging from the serious to the frivolous — in recent years.

"Everybody's done everything to go to the pole, except ride there on a toaster," said Greg Sorensen, a worker for Narwhal Arctic Services, which runs a hotel for the adventurers.

The most recent assault on the pole was in May when an international team led by Britain's Robert Swan walked to it in a venture that cost some \$3 million. Bradley air dropped the team off from the northernmost point on Canada's Ellesmere Island on March 20. Fifty-six days and 960 kilometres later the team reached the pole.

Bradley, after first being stymied by an Arctic storm, landed at the pole on a makeshift air strip on the ice and then brought the explorers back to Resolute.

Arctic exploration has been going on for centuries but in the 1800s it reached a fever pitch when European explorers, treated as heroes at home, tried to find the fabled northwest passage to the east.

They failed, and turned their sights on the pole.

Although it is disputed, American explorer Robert Peary

claimed to be the first to reach the pole, in 1909. In 1926 a plane made its first flight over the pole and in 1958 a U.S. nuclear submarine visited the point by sailing under the arctic ice pack.

"Some of the characters you meet up here are most interesting," said Barry Hough, base manager for the Canadian government's polar continental shelf organisation, which is involved in a myriad of arctic endeavours, including conducting research from a floating ice island.

Hough said Resolute, founded as a weather station 1947 and named after an 18th-century arctic exploration ship, has become a point of departure for anyone wishing to make the pilgrimage to the North Pole.

The community, a mixture of Eskimos, businesspeople and government workers, still talking about a man who spent \$100,000 on a custom-made motorcycle to drive to the pole.

There was also interest in a group of men from France who have visited Resolute several times to map out their plan to drive to the pole in a six-wheel-drive truck.

Then there was the Japanese actress a few years ago who, while being pulled on a sled to the pole by snowmobile, had a hot pizza delivered to her on the ice by her outfitters back in Resolute.

Although it is disputed, American explorer Robert Peary

Selling organs for transplant worries ethicists worldwide

By Maud Beelman
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Turkish peasant claims he was robbed of one of his kidneys. Philippines prison inmates trade organs for reduced sentences. Brokers in human body parts take their cut of a shadowy market.

The economics of supply and demand in the desperate world of organ transplants has brought a trade in human organs that worries health officials and ethicists worldwide.

As research has advanced, allowing for more successful transplants, the need for organs has increased. But the number of donated organs has failed to keep pace, and some health officials say supply will never match demand.

People often are either too grieving to donate a loved one's organ on death or object for religious or cultural reasons, and not enough people die under medical conditions that allow for transplantable organs, doctors say.

To fill that gap, dealers in human body parts have stepped forward. And while the full extent of the commercial organ market is not known, there is concern it is growing.

What, if anything, to do about the trade in human organs varies greatly — from countries that ban it, like the United States, Japan and West Germany, to India, where such trade thrives legally. In Britain and the Philippines, lawmakers have just begun grappling with the highly charged issue.

"There simply doesn't seem to be any country that has a public policy to generate enough organs to meet the demand," said Arthur Caplan, director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota, who has focused for more than 10 years on transplant ethics.

The World Health Organisation in May called for a global ban on commercial trafficking in human organs, urging member nations to introduce legislation banning organ selling.

West German health minister Dr. Ursula Lehr, in appealing for the ban, said the number of commercial organ transplants had increased despite a 1987 WHO assembly resolution expressing

concern over the trade for profit in human organs.

"The idea of business-minded brokers taking advantage of the financial distress of people in the Third World, buying their organs for a pittance and reselling them to wealthy patients in developed countries is awful for me," said Dr. Lehr.

But some ask what's wrong if people, fully informed of the risks, decide to sell an organ they can do without, for example, a kidney?

The question becomes further complicated when the potential donor is desperately poor. Offers for transplantable kidneys have ranged in individual instances from \$3,000 to \$20,000.

"Is it really for us, who are not faced with those difficulties and that heart-rending decision, to deny people that choice?" Neil Hamilton, a British lawmaker, asked during recent parliamentary debate.

"It's not intrinsically wrong to sell organs," said James Childress, a professor of religious studies and medical education at the University of Virginia. "However, I think there are good societal and ethical reasons for being opposed to a market in organs," such as potential coercion and exploitation.

"It really isn't a choice if you're coerced by poverty," said Caplan.

Robbed of their organs

Others worry that selling organs would decrease donations and make transplants more expensive in general.

"We have believe that commercial trade in organs would lead to inequality as organs would go to the highest bidder rather than to the patient who needs them most," said Bernadette Haze, a spokeswoman for the Netherlands-based Eurotransplant, which matches organ donors and recipients in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, West Germany and Austria.

Britain, which currently has no law banning the sale of organs, took up the issue earlier this year after a Turk was arrested in Istanbul for allegedly arranging commercial transplants at a private London hospital. One of the "donors" contended he was



Trying to save a baby's life

duped and robbed of his kidney.

He alleged organ broker, Tunc Ay Kunter, was convicted May 18 of brokering the sale of a Turkish peasant's kidney for transplant into a Libyan doctor and sentenced to two years in prison. The prosecutor claimed Kunter headed the Turkish branch of an international ring that markets Third World kidneys, and police said Kunter confessed to arranging four such sales when he was arrested.

Turkish law allows the donation of human organs, but makes it a crime to sell, broker or buy human organs.

The peasant, Ahmet Koc, who got a two-year suspended sentence, contended he was taken to a British hospital for what was described as a check-up linked to a job offer in Britain. After the kidney was removed, he said he was paid the equivalent of \$4,267.

The incident prompted British lawmakers to introduce legislation making it a criminal offence to pay or receive payment for a human organ. Parliament is expected to pass it this summer.

Organ sales are not illegal in the Philippines, but in late May,

the vice president of the Philippine senate filed a bill to ban the selling of human organs and tissues, calling practitioners "modern day Draculas."

Philippine prisoners began donating organs in 1976 as part of a programme to reduce overcrowding on death row without resorting to widespread executions, said Pablo Rosales, assistant director of the National Penitentiary.

Rosales said a death row inmate's case would be reviewed after donation, with most donors avoiding execution and some being freed after a few more years in prison.

When capital punishment was banned in 1987, prisoners started asking for money, he said.

One prisoner who donated a kidney even complained to Rosales that all he received was \$95 and not the additional minicassette recorder he was promised.

"Some doctors and prison people made money in the deals," said Rosales, who said he played no role and had no idea of the amounts involved.

Media attention, beginning

several years ago, greatly reduced the number of people seeking organs from prisoners, Rosales said, and no prisoner has donated a kidney since last year.

But he believes organ sales continue with private donors, most likely poor slum dwellers.

Unethical

"There are no established guidelines in the sale of body organs, but we believe it is unethical to sell body parts," Rosales said.

Dr. Kazuo Ota, chairman of the Japan Society for Transplantation, said he knew of several patients who were operated on in the Philippines and that some Japanese profiteers were acting as organ brokers. Organ sales are banned in Japan.

Dr. Jorge Nuemann of the Sao Paulo heart institute and a member of the Brazilian Association of Organ Transplants, said, "Certainly there exists a black market of organs in Brazil." But he said there were no statistics on organ sales and no way to estimate the market's size.

In the United States, where selling organs has been illegal since 1984 and sentiment against such a practice is high, there have been allegations of influence peddling in transplants.

In April, U.S. investigators said they had dropped a nearly three-year investigation into whether pioneering American transplant surgeon Thomas Starzl gave high-paying foreigners preferential treatment at two hospitals in Pittsburgh.

The investigation followed newspaper articles which said about 28 per cent of the transplants by Starzl's team in 1984 and 1985 were for foreigners who often were not as ill as other patients or had waited less time, but who paid twice surgeon's fees.

Starzl, head of transplants at Presbyterian University and children's hospitals, said his reputation and that of the hospitals had been cleared.

Groundless reports?

The organ-selling controversy reached superpower level last October, when the U.S. State Department blamed the Soviet Union for "groundless" reports that adoption rings routinely sold babies from Third World countries to American or Israeli families with children who needed organs.

The State Department said a resolution approved by the European Parliament criticising the alleged activity was based on "false and misleading statements and a discredited report by a Soviet front organisation."

Caplan argues for regulations to ensure that medical need, rather than money or influence, determines who gets available organs.

In addition, he said, Ghoulis extremists could result if countries allow organ sales to go unchecked. As much as grave robbing was a reality of the 18th century, so could contract killings for body parts become a part of modern day medicine.

Some in the field say providing incentives could increase donations, and replacing the organ broker with a neutral party, such as government, could cut the risk of exploitation.

Such incentives could include compensating organ donors or their families for all medical costs, time lost from work or burial expenses. There could also be a break on inheritance or other taxes.

Dr. Jeremiah Turcotte, a transplant surgeon at the University of Michigan and director of the Transplant and Health Policy Centre in Ann Arbor, said there is risk in compensating organ donors.

"But it doesn't necessarily mean it's not ethical," he said, stressing this was his personal opinion. "There are very good very ethical people who think it's all right. It's against the Western tradition, but it may be starting to change."

Recently, transplant researchers have begun looking at animal-to-human transplants.

"There's always been a shortage of organs and there probably always will be unless we learn to take them out of animals," said Caplan. "I don't know if it's going to be biologically feasible, but I think that's the direction we have to try."

At a meeting at the end of May of the American Society of Transplant Physicians, researchers predicted pigs would become the main source of donor organs for cross-species transplantation for some practical.

"It's got to be from animals that are prolific and cheap and that means probably pigs — not monkeys, not baboons, not chimpanzees, which raise ethical questions in their own right," Caplan said. "Very few people get worked up about the fate of pigs."

Ivory bans snowball, years after environmentalists began

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After years of efforts to stop poachers from wiping out the African elephant, conservationists have suddenly reaped a bumper crop of successes: a string of national bans on ivory imports.

"It's been a real snowball effect," said Jorgen Thomsen, senior programme officer for Elephant Conservation at the World Wildlife Fund.

Since June 4, the United States, Japan, the 12-nation European Economic Commu-

ity, Switzerland and Canada have imposed bans on the ivory imports that make poaching profitable. The EEC, Japan and the United States consume up to 75 per cent of the ivory on world markets.

In addition, Hong Kong, the major world ivory dealer and carver, has announced a moratorium on raw ivory imports. Ivory is used for the signature stamps popular in many Asian nations, and for jewelry, piano keys and carvings.

The 102-nation convention on international trade in endangered species will consider a worldwide

ban at a Geneva meeting in October.

The Conservationists' sudden success follows a June 1 appeal by the World Wildlife Fund and Wildlife Conservation International. The two groups said poachers were wiping out elephant populations in Africa faster than originally thought, and that they could be extinct within 15 years.

Conservationists also feared that prospects of a worldwide ban in October could lead poachers to a frenzy of elephant killing unless interim measures were imposed. France announced its ban June

4, and the United States followed a day later. Penalties vary for violations in the United States, the maximum penalty is a year in jail and a \$100,000 fine.

"We do this out of mounting concern for the rapid decline of the wild elephant, one of nature's most majestic creatures," U.S.

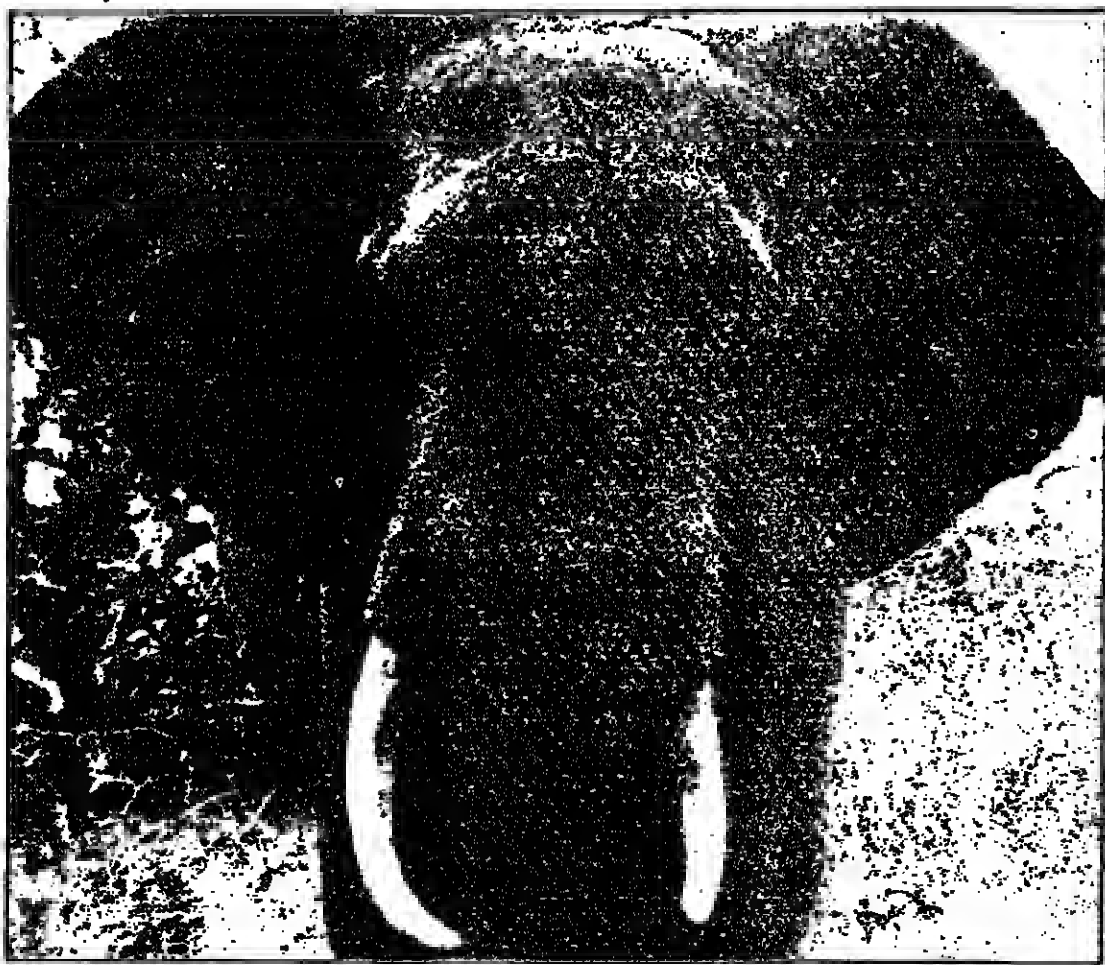
President George Bush said at the time. "If their populations continue to diminish at current rates, the wild elephant will soon be lost from this earth."

Japan and Hong Kong were considered particularly critical to any effective reduction in ivory demand. Japan is the largest im-

porter and consumer of ivory, accounting for 40-per cent of the world market. Hong Kong is heavily involved in making ivory carvings for re-export.

More responsibility

"The real victory is Japan."



Elephant population is dwindling in several African countries.

Thomsen said. "Hong Kong's action was very much to save face," because its two biggest customers — Japan and the U.S. — had banned imports.

"This proves that we have taken more responsibility as consumer countries," Thomsen said. "We may have prevented a catastrophe. Credit should also be placed with the African countries, who previously had opposed a ban but now realise the crisis situation."

Several African countries recently have made an about-face and taken the initiative to protect rapidly dwindling elephant populations. Kenya last month followed the lead of neighbouring Tanzania and Somalia in calling for a worldwide ivory import ban.

Conservationists estimate African elephant populations have dropped by half to two-thirds in the past decade, from 1.5 million in 1978 to between 400,000 and 700,000 today. Ivory exports have increased from 300 tonnes a year in the 1950s to more than 800 tonnes annually this decade, they say.

An aerial survey last year found an estimated 20,000 elephants in Kenya, which 15 years ago had 121,000. The number of elephants in Tanzania has fallen to 80,000 from 300,000 in 1979, according to government officials.

Conservationists say most other elephant populations in Africa are suffering similar fates, except in Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Zimbabwe has annual elephant kills and a thriving legal trade in elephant products. In the last 12 months it has earned about \$600,000 in legal ivory sales.

Poachers have killed most of the big male elephants in some countries and are switching in some cases to young beasts, according to a conservationists report this month based on material from more than 25 biologists, conservationists, economists and trade specialists.

Late in life

As a result, three times as many elephants must be killed to provide the same amount of ivory as 10 years ago, the report said. Most ivory is added late in life among males.

"The annual ivory haul must be reduced to at least a tenth of its present volume to enable populations to recover," the report said.

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Focus on People

They chose to stay

By Mariam M. Shakin

This week Peter S.M. Kuai (alias Abu Khalil) talks to Focus on People about his long journey from his hometown of Anhui in central China to his new home in Jabal Amman in Jordan.

ON THE YELLOW river that flows through most of China lies Anhui, Peter Kuai's hometown. There, at the age of 13, sometime in the early 1940s, Peter joined preparatory air force school and graduated to attend the Chinese Air Academy. At the outbreak of the civil war in China, Kuai, along with hundreds of thousands of fellow Chinese, fled to Taiwan. Kuai continued his education there until he graduated from Taiwan's Air Force Academy in 1951. Having been at the top of his class a fighter pilot, he was sent to the United States to receive training on the Mustang fighter plane — the most powerful fighter plane used by the United States in World War II.

After a one year training programme in the U.S., Kuai returned to Taiwan in 1954 to teach students at the air force academy to fly fighter jets. He met his wife Margaret from Shanghai in 1956 and they were married soon afterwards. Kuai continued to teach at the air force academy in Taiwan until 1967, when he was assigned as military attaché of the Taiwanese embassy in Jordan. "My wife and I were very excited at the time. Jordan was far away and we had never been to an Arab country, it was to be a new world for us," Kuai recalls.

In April 1967, the family arrived in Jordan. "We came to Jordan just before the 1967 war and that was very interesting for us," Kuai said. "Jordanians lead such a peaceful life, and they were horrified at the war. For us, it was mild compared to what we had seen in China. But then everything is relative."

At that time Jordan's Chinese community was minute, comprising only about 20 people other than the embassy staff. "Most of the Chinese in Jordan were Muslim Chinese from the northwest of China."

"They kept a relatively low profile," Kuai said. Kuai remained military attaché and special assistant to Taiwan's ambassador in Amman until 1975. At that point, Kuai had several job opportunities in Taiwan and the United States, but he hesitated. "Our son Khalil was born in Amman, (thus I became known as Abu Khalil to all my Arab friends), and our two other children, Bernard and Angela, had adapted very well. We were very happy in Amman. The people were friendly, the climate warm and we felt very safe. We decided not to leave. I returned to Taiwan to officially retire from my post and quickly came back to Amman."

During the early 1970s, Kuai was a member of a delegation which accompanied His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Taiwan on an official visit. During that visit, Kuai says, Prince Hassan suggested that "we really should have a Chinese restaurant in Amman." That prompted Peter to think about opening a Chinese restaurant in the Jordanian capital.

"I had been trained as a fighter pilot, so really I had not been prepared to be a restaurateur, but I did my best. I contacted the embassy's ex-chef who was working in Spain at the time and told him about my idea. He said he would come to Amman on the next plane to join me in my venture," Kuai recalls.

For the ex-diplomat and his family Jordan became "home." Although Bernard, now 33, left for the U.S. to continue his studies, Angela and Khalil attended local Arabic schools.

"Angela and Khalil speak Arabic better than Chinese and are culturally more Arab than anything else," says Margaret Kuai, who has also done a formidable job of integrating into the Jordanian lifestyle. "From the beginning I never had any problems in Jordan. I was the wife of a diplomat so I was fortunate enough to meet many of Jordan's most interesting people. Many things here reminded me of my childhood in pre-revolutionary China and my father, though he was being a member of the aristocracy and thus a patron of the poor and needy — his memory has been respected by all Chinese governments. People in Jordan are kind and extremely generous."

Angela was a student at the Ahlia or CMS Girls School where she sat for her Tawjihi and passed with 92 per cent marks. She then went to the United States to continue her higher education and several weeks ago married a young Arab man whose parents originate from Haifa. Commenting on her daughter's marriage, Margaret says: "It was only natural for Angela to marry an Arab because that is the culture she feels most at home in."

Kuai rejoins the conversation: "Khalil graduated from the Bishop School for boys, which is an excellent school. Actually all schools in Jordan are excellent. He did his general certificate of education (GCE), and got a B in his Arabic A levels. He is 19 now and in his junior year at University in Texas where he has a double major in computer science and electrical engineering."

Peter and Margaret Kuai feel that their children have benefited a great deal from their stay in Jordan and the Jordanian education system. "Lots of kinds who go to the U.S. from all over the world, including our friend's children from Taiwan, have a difficult time when they first reach there. Our children and others from Jordan adapt very quickly because the education system here has prepared them well," Kuai says.

The Jordanians' liking of Chinese food has increased tremendously since Kuai first opened the doors of the restaurant in 1975. "At the beginning 70 per cent of our customers were foreign and 30 per cent Jordanian. Now it's the other way around. The success of the other Chinese restaurants also indicate that there is a growing demand for Chinese cuisine."

Asked if he would consider opening another restaurant, Kuai smiles. "No, I have enough to do to make sure that everything in Restaurant China is done well. Sometimes I work up to 14 hours a day. It is quite enough, thank you."

Kuai was the president of the Chinese Community Group in Jordan for two and a half years before resigning a few months back. The community has grown to over 200 people now, and, according to him, "I really should give someone else the opportunity to be president of the community club."

This year is the "Year of the Snake" on the Chinese calendar and Peter Kuai is 60 years old. Cooking at the afternoon sun that shines on Jabal Amman, he smiles "It's so nice to be in Jordan."

Children, 'the only privileged class,' by system neglected

Reassessing the system

By Jim Heintz
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — During times of deprivation, Soviets have comforted themselves with the belief that their children would have better lives, but glasnost is making them painfully aware of how untrue that can be, a Soviet journalist says.

"There was an expression that 'children are the only privileged class,'" said Natalie Darilova. That belief was easy to maintain during the decades that officials did not acknowledge social problems and considered those who did to be undermining Communism.

But now, under the recent policies of more openness, Soviets are finding that the system has failed the children, leaving them neglected at home or stupefied with boredom, she said.

An estimated 300,000 are consigned to orphanages that Darilova said do little more than feed and clothe them.

In a recent interview in New York while on a private trip, Darilova said the root of those abuses was the top-heavy bureaucracy and the corruption that flourished during Leonid Brezhnev's years as Soviet leader.

94 per cent of Soviet women work
In addition, she said, society's

pressure on women to work — and their need for the extra income — forced many families to neglect their children. A prominent Soviet sociologist reported last year that 94 per cent of Soviet adult women worked and that working mothers spent an average of just 30 minutes a week "on spiritual communication with their children."

Darilova began investigating the problems of youth in 1985 when she was assigned by the weekly literary gazette (Literaturnaya Gazeta) to do a story about five children who died in a house fire. The children had been left unattended.

When she asked local authorities why the parents hadn't been able to find someone to watch the children, "I found that no one was in charge," of child welfare, she said. "The local Soviets (councils) had no authority, no money. They were the poorest bodies."

"Under Brezhnev, social and cultural programmes were cut. Much money went to who knows where," she said.

The bleakness of life in many Soviet cities is, in effect, a sort of child abuse, Darilova said. Many children have little to do with their free time and energy. That can lead to street crime, which Soviet figures say has risen by about 40 per cent in the past

year, or other antisocial behaviour. One press report bemoaned motorcycle gangs made up of "minors who like to ride with the wind."

"Imagine a city with no cultural facilities. Children can go out and buy a bottle of wine, and the road to crime is open," she said, explaining that "cultural facilities" meant movies and places to hear rock music, as well as opera and classical music.

Although the government has begun an extensive programme to combat alcohol abuse by hiking prices and raising the drinking age to 21, it has not reduced children's desire to combat boredom through intoxication, she said. They have learned, like their counterparts in the West, that a medicine cabinet can provide a cheap and convenient, if unreliable, high, she said.

Orphanages

Darilova said the nadir of the system is its orphanages, which "yield awful crops... one of 10 criminals comes from the orphanages."

There, "the main problem is the lack of spiritual care, lack of affection," she said. The children are fed and clothed and given basic education, but do not learn how to cope with day-to-day life, she said.

"Upon leaving the orphanages,



"Coming to grips with their children's problems has been traumatic for many Soviets because in general there is much love. All their lives is in their children... Russian Babushkas (grandmothers) are famous for their devotion."

they have no idea how to use the subway, how to cook," she said.

One area in which all children need better real-life education is in sexual matters, she said. But there, she has found, prudishness and political orthodoxy often stand in the way.

No problems in Brezhnev's time

Darilova told of being com-

missioned to write the script for a television programme dealing with issues of love.

"The editor said 'the main thing is missing'... she said 'there is not a single word about love for country,'" she recalled.

Coming to grips with their children's problems has been traumatic for many Soviets because "in general there is much love. All their lives is in their children..."

Russian Babushkas (grandmothers) are famous for their devotion.

"In discussions I often hear that in Brezhnev's time we didn't have these problems. Of course it is frightening when you open a newspaper and it's more and more (problems)."

"But it is a new atmosphere. We now feel the ability to do something, not to be just obedient employees."

Vatican alarmed about new book of Pope death

By Philip Pullella
Reuters

VATICAN CITY — The most sought-after book inside the Vatican these days is not a new papal encyclical nor a controversial theological treatise.

It is a work which seeks to quash the tireless rumour that Pope John Paul I was murdered in 1978, but which paints the tiny walled city-state as the domain of bungling bureaucrats and spiteful conspirators.

"Everybody here is talking about it, wanting to borrow a copy from someone," a Vatican insider said about British journalist John Cornwell's new book, "A Thief in the Night."

Cornwell systematically and methodically challenges the murder allegations made popular by fellow Briton David Yallop in his 1984 international bestseller, "In God's Name."

Yallop claimed that a number of people in the Vatican had a motive for poisoning the newly-elected Albino Luciani because of institutional changes he intended to make.

Known as the "Smiling Pope" because of his good nature, Luciani reigned for only 33 days from August 26 until he died on September 28, 1978. The official cause of death was a heart attack.

Although Yallop's research methods were criticised by other journalists and his allegations hotly denied by the Vatican, his book was a thorn in the side of the Roman Catholic church.

American priests visiting Rome told Vatican officials they did not know how to handle questions from their parishioners such as: "father, why was the smiling Pope poisoned?"

Cornwell, a 48-year-old former Roman Catholic seminarian, novelist and former journalist on the London Observer, was given unprecedented access to Vatican officials.

Some of them, such as papal doctor Renato Buzzonetti and Irish Archbishop John Magee, one of Pope Luciani's two private secretaries, spoke to Cornwell only after being told that the current Pope wanted them to.

Cornwell concludes that Pope John Paul I died from a pulmonary embolism resulting from his long standing blood circulation problems.

Although it clashes with the official cause of death, this conclusion is supported in the book by the current Vatican spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, and the late Pope's niece, Lina Petri, who both studied medicine.

But if the Vatican sought in Cornwell a white knight to kill all the rumours, they did not succeed.

Cornwell in effect accuses the institution and its bureaucratic, Byzantine ways of neglecting the Pope's health and of causing widespread confusion by the way the news of his death was given to the world.

He says that the Pope's medical records were not brought to Rome from Venice, where he had been cardinal, and Vatican doctors had never examined him.

Despite severe chest and leg pains and badly swollen feet suffered by the Pope the day before he died, his secretaries did not inform the doctors, according to the book. They said the pontiff refused suggestions for a doctor to be called.

The Pope's body was found by the nun who entered his room at

down after he failed to take the coffee she left outside and did not respond to knocking on the door. She then called Magee, one of his secretaries.

The Vatican, not comfortable with the idea that a woman, albeit an elderly nun, had been in the Pope's bedroom, said in the official version that Magee had found the body.

The book also highlights the abrasive, rival relationship between Magee, an Irish Vatican veteran, and the Pope's other secretary, Italian newcomer Monsignor Diego Lorenzi.

Magee and Lorenzi still dis-

agree on whether both of them were in the Vatican the night before the Pope died.

Cornwell also documents how some reporting by Italian journalists fuelled the mystery.

Poison theorists attributed great importance to what the Pope was reading in bed when he died. Various versions included a speech announcing a crackdown on the Jesuits, a plan for reshuffling Vatican posts and a copy of Thomas a Kempis' "imitation of Christ."

Cornwell shows how the rumour that the Pope was reading Thomas a Kempis began in the

Vatican press room, but got out of control that even Vatican radio broadcast it as fact, correcting it later.

The author also shows how an Italian news agency erroneously reported — but never corrected — a story that Rome Moricians were summoned an hour before the time the Vatican said the Pope's body had been discovered.

Cornwell also gives a unique insight into the daily life of people who live and work in the Vatican.

U.S. Archbishop Paul Mar-

chunness has not endeared him to some Vatican officials, told him: "This is a village, excuse me if I say this, a village of washer-women."

Andrew Greeley, a U.S. priest and bestselling author, said Cornwell "portrays the Vatican as it really is: humbling, venal, paranoid, arrogant, frightened, ignorant, petty, inept."

Vatican officials have reacted quietly to the book, accusing Cornwell of excessive gossip. But as one insider said, whatever his criticisms, it's better to be portrayed as incompetent than as conspiratorial murderers.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

AIRLANKA

Public transport pay strike paralyses U.K. rail network

LONDON (R) — Commuter chaos hit Britain Wednesday as the national rail network came to a halt and public transport in London was paralysed by a 24-hour pay strike by train and bus workers.

For the first time in seven years, not a single train was running as rail workers walked out in protest against state-owned British Rail's offer of a seven per cent pay rise.

Commuter traffic into all major cities was affected as traffic jams built up across the country.

London was worst affected as the underground railway was halted by its seventh 24-hour stoppage in six months. The capital's double-decker red buses were missing from the clogged roads leading into the capital. It was the first total public

transport stoppage to hit London since the nationwide general strike of 1926.

Bus workers struck in support of a 14 per cent pay claim in the latest of a series of wage disputes sweeping Britain, where inflation has doubled in the past year to an annual rate of 8.3 per cent.

Bicycles and roller skates were more common than bowler hats and rolled umbrellas in central London, sweltering in a rare heat wave on the longest day of the year.

British Rail said the strike appeared to be "100 per cent

solid". It failed in a court bid Tuesday to stop the action.

Further disruption was forecast for Thursday with trains left scattered throughout the network when the stoppage began at midnight.

Industrial chaos was expected to spread to Britain's ports after Britain's highest court Tuesday cleared the way for the Transport and General Workers Union to ballot dockers on a national strike in protest at changes in their work conditions.

Many London commuters have a 10-mile (16-kilometre) journey to and from work daily and much greater distance are common. In London, companies booked thousands of hotel rooms for their staff to stay overnight. Coach and taxi companies re-

ported booming business. While many workers were expected to stay at home, others prepared for a long struggle to work by car, bicycle or on foot.

Police said they would not ease the capital's tough parking restrictions because this would worsen traffic congestion.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned the strikes and accused the railwaymen of being "typically selfish."

But Jimmy Knapp, the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said his men were considering further 24-hour strikes and bans on overtime and rest-day working in pursuit of a pay claim.

Knapp, who lives outside the capital, was reported to be sleeping on the floor of his union's central London headquarters.

Saudi trade surplus drops

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's trade surplus fell in 1988 but petrochemical exports more than doubled, official figures showed Monday.

A study by the Ministry of Finance, carried by the Saudi Press Agency and received in Nicosia, put the kingdom's trade surplus, excluding re-exported goods, at 7.31 billion riyals (\$1.95 billion) in 1988.

The previous year, Riyadh achieved a huge rise in its trade surplus of 9.29 billion riyals (\$2.48 billion) from a modest 1.36 billion riyals (\$360 million) in 1986 when oil prices tumbled.

Prices crashed again in 1988 and briefly fell below \$10 a barrel

in the second half but crude values have picked up since and the Gulf's Dubai benchmark is currently selling at \$14.65 a barrel.

The study said Riyadh's "plastics and chemicals" exports surged by 68.6 per cent to a record 1.01 billion riyals (\$269 million) while some goods were re-exported for 23.92 billion riyals (\$6.38 billion), a 112 per cent rise from 1987.

"Exports of national products" rose by 5.1 per cent in 1988 to 88.89 billion riyals (\$23.69 billion) while imports also increased by 8.3 per cent to 81.58 billion riyals (\$21.75 billion), the study said.

It did not give a figure for Saudi Arabia's crude exports estimated at around \$20 billion a year. The kingdom is the world's largest oil exporter and sells about 4.5 million barrels a day.

Some 1.8 per cent of Riyadh's imports came from China in 1988 but the United States, Japan and other Western countries remained the leading trading partners of the kingdom.

Riyadh has spent billions in the past 10 years building an advanced petrochemical industry and is negotiating with the European Community in an attempt to ease EC tariffs on cheap Gulf petrochemicals.

Gulf oil supply remains high in June

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf oil states kept output high in June and 10 days before a new OPEC pact comes into force regional oil analysts say they suspect at least one key player, Kuwait, might not curb production enough to maintain prices.

Analysts said oil prices would plummet in the next three months if high OPEC output was maintained.

Kuwait officials said Tuesday they have already started to lower output and that it will not exceed 1.35 million barrels per day (BPD) in July.

But an oil industry executive said: "Kuwait is in a difficult position. It might not be able to reduce its output to the (1.35 million BPD) level."

Oil analysts have said Kuwait produced 1.9 million BPD in May and that production in June was probably at least as high.

Kuwait has rejected its quota of 1.093 million BPD for the second half of this year, fixed this month at a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Analysts said Kuwait's domestic and European refining system absorbs almost one million BPD and that it has contracted to sell 100,000 BPD to Japan.

"This leaves Kuwait with only 250,000 BPD to sell to (other) Western countries,"

Industrial states boost consumption

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans, Japanese and West Europeans have been boosting both their consumption and their investments during the 1980s but developing countries have lagged in both, according to the latest figures from the World Bank.

The average Japanese, for example, used up \$5,269 worth of goods in 1980 and \$6,206 worth in 1987. The average for the 12 countries of the European Community rose from \$6,127 to \$6,922. In the United States consumption rose to an average \$8,957 from \$7,609.

Investment rose too — that is, the building of new factories and machinery that create more production and jobs for the future. Americans on average invested the least of the three, and much of the money was borrowed abroad, but there was a rise from

\$1,918 to \$2,373 per capita. The European rise was smaller, from \$2,338 to \$2,432. Japan's increase was greater: from \$2,994 to \$3,801.

The figures from the World Bank have just appeared in the 1988-1989 edition of its "World Tables," a 650-page volume that consists mostly of statistical lists. They cover subjects ranging from incomes to high school registration and life expectancy.

The book uses the value of the U.S. dollar in 1980 as a measuring stick. The last results in the book are for 1987. The bank does not get the data independently, but takes figures supplied by the individual governments and then adapts them for its comparative tables.

They show that people in some developing countries, despite low incomes and mounting debt,

managed on average to keep their consumption fairly steady — though at levels that reflect deep poverty compared with industrial countries.

The average consumption in developing countries rose slightly, from \$451 per capita in 1980 to \$483 in 1987.

Behind the averages lie wide variations. The value of goods consumed by the average Chinese increased by more than half between 1979 and 1987, but in 1987 they were still worth only \$217. Americans consumed more than 40 times as much.

In Nigeria, the most populous country of Africa, there was a decline from a peak of \$821 in 1982 to \$621 in 1987. Average incomes of people in many poor countries of Africa have been going down since they became independent of colonial powers.

Consumption in such countries rose between 1980 and 1987, but only to \$206 a year from \$174.

EC free-market ideas are losing appeal

By Simon Alterman
Reuters

BRUSSELS — A shift to leftist and ecologist parties in the European elections suggests the free-market philosophy which has dominated the European Community's (EC) drive towards 1992 may be losing its allure.

Results of the polling last Thursday and Sunday point to doubts among voters about the social, economic and environmental consequences of tearing down remaining barriers between the 12 EC states over the next three years.

And a spectacular setback for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher could undermine her so far successful campaign to create an open and deregulated single European market in the image of her social and economic reforms in Britain.

"The basic thrust behind the single market was (economically) neo-liberal and deregulatory. It was made for Mrs. Thatcher. These elections are a setback for the cause of ultra-liberalism," said one EC ambassador.

European Commission President Jacques Delors, a French Socialist and the butt of Thatcher's tirades against a powerful super-state controlled by Brussels, said the results reflected a wider political trend.

"At the start of the 1970's, after 20 years of almost total triumph for social democracy, the neo-liberal (economic) movement emerged... now there is a sort of backfire and the balance is being redressed," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Diplomats and analysts cautioned against reading too much into the results since the turnout touched a record low of about 56 per cent — itself a sign that voters were hardly fired by Euro-enthusiasm. In most countries, national political themes dominated the campaigns.

With counting continuing in some EC states Monday, projections released in Brussels showed that Socialists had scored the largest net gains and Green parties also boosted their presence in the 518-member Strasbourg-based assembly.

Thatcher's Conservative Party lost at least 11 seats to the opposition Labour Party and computers forecast the final tally would be 45 seats for Labour to 32 for the

Conservatives.

Many detected evidence of unease over 1992 in the surge of support for extreme-right parties in West Germany and Belgium and a solid showing by their colleagues in France.

"Distrust and fear are dominating optimism and hope," said Bernard Herman, a Belgian Christian Democrat member of the European Parliament.

The political consequences of the election results could be felt as early as next week at the EC summit in Madrid.

EC leaders may privately question Thatcher's political authority at the meeting, at which she is expected to repeat Britain's opposition to European monetary union and an EC charter to protect workers' rights.

"The elections have undermined her position in Madrid," one diplomat said. But the long-term effects will be more complex.

The new European Parliament, buoyed by the success of the outgoing assembly in forcing tougher pollution control standards for small cars on reluctant ministers, will certainly keep up the pressure on the environment and social policy.

The election outcome could also reinforce the protectionist tendency in the parliament, which has only limited power over EC decisions and is learning to use its voice more effectively.

The last assembly took a tough line over access to the single market for foreign banks and helped stall legislation on cross-border television broadcasts with a highly-publicised campaign for quotas against U.S.-made programmes.

The warning signal sent by voters in France, where fewer than half of those eligible actually voted and many cast a protest ballot, could also increase pressure for action to protect people from the harshest social consequences of 1992.

"The French are going through a phase where the internal market is starting to upset them," the EC ambassador said, pointing to France's closed financial services market and protected motor manufacturing industry.

That may be unsettling for the EC's trading partners since France takes over the bloc's presidency for six months from July 1 and will be determining the priorities for the decision-making council of ministers.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Gulf Air to discuss share sale

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf Air directors will discuss offering shares to the public at a board meeting in Qatar on Saturday, the Emirates News Agency (WAM), said Monday. "The Gulf Air board will discuss inviting citizens in member states to participate in the company's shares after it achieved good results in 1988," Ali bin Khalifa Al Dhahiri, deputy chairman of Gulf Air was quoted as saying. Gulf Air is owned by Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

U.S. grants Liberia \$9.5m

MONROVIA (R) — The United States granted Liberia \$9.5 million Tuesday after the West African country averted an aid cutoff by repaying debt arrears with money collected in a nationwide appeal. The U.S. charge d'affaires in Liberia, Keith Wauchop, said the grant was for education, health, small businesses, rural development, agricultural research and professional training. "Signing was made possible by the government of Liberia's successful effort to bring its debt arrears current," he told guests at the grant signing ceremony. Liberia repaid \$7 million in arrears to the United States in early May, mostly made up of voluntary contributions from the country's 2.3 million citizens after an appeal by President Samuel Doe.

Comecon postpones summit

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Comecon, the East Bloc trading alliance, has postponed a summit conference scheduled for June 27-29, a Bulgarian official said Tuesday. Chavdar Minchev, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Press Department, told reporters that the Sofia meeting, to be attended by the premiers of the 10 member states of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation, would likely take place in fall. He gave no reasons for the change. Comecon, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in January, has been under growing criticism by some of its members for its Soviet-type centrally-planned system. Critics have urged a move away from rigid central planning in favour of a less regulated movement of goods and services in a common market.

Ncube claims world's fastest computer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ncube has unveiled what it claimed is the world's fastest computer, a machine that can harness more than 8,000 processors to a single task and carry out 27 billion

operations per second. The raw speed of computers is tricky to compare because the performance of a machine depends of its software and the work it is given. But Ncube helped its credibility by announcing Monday its new computer, Ncube 2, would run Unix System V, a widely used type of base-layer software. Ncube, a privately owned company based in Beaverton, Oregon, also announced its new machine will run Oracle Corp.'s data-base management software, which is used by businesses for storing and retrieving electronic records. The ability to run Oracle could help set Ncube apart from its rivals, said Michael Burwen, president of Palo Alto Management Group.

Wheat production in U.S., Europe to fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wheat production in the United States and Europe should fall slightly below previous estimates for the next year, suggestions supplies already reduced by last year's drought will remain tight, the USDA says. With world stocks already at their lowest in more than a decade, prices could be somewhat skittish in the crop year that began June 1, responding sharply to changes in growing conditions and import demand, the department said. A drop of \$10 a ton in the price of U.S. wheat in recent weeks represents an example of this sensitivity, the Agriculture Department said in its monthly world grain situation and outlook report. Despite such fluctuations, however, prices should remain strong on the whole, the department said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, June 21, 1989		Swiss franc		330.2	333.5
Central Bank official rates		French franc		84.4	85.2
		Japanese yen (for 100)		392.4	396.3
		Dutch guilder		253.8	256.3
		Swedish crown		84.8	85.6
		Italian lire (for 100)		365.2	369.9
		Belgian franc (for 10)		136.7	138.1
		Buy		Sell	
U.S. dollar		568.0	574.0		
Pound Sterling		874.3	883.0		
Deutschmark		285.8	288.7		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling		1.5340/50	U.S. dollars		
One U.S. dollar		1.1980/90	Canadian dollar		
		1.9885/92	Deutschmarks		
		2.2395/2405	Dutch guilders		
		1.7235/45	Swiss francs		
		41.61/66	Belgian francs		
		6.7450/7500	French francs		
		1441.5/1442.5	Italian lire		
		144.85/95	Japanese yen		
		6.7025/75	Swedish crowns		
		7.2100/50	Norwegian crowns		
		7.7425/75	Danish crowns		
			U.S. dollars		
One ounce of gold		365.25/365.65			

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Share market drifted to a lower close in subdued trade following the higher than expected April retail sales figure. The All-Ordinaries Index fell 8.4 to 1,528.2.

TOKYO — A few heavy industry shares took centre stage in an otherwise dull day as big brokers tried to boost the price on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The Nikkei gained 111.81 to close at 33,345.28.

HONG KONG — Share prices finished the morning lower in very quiet trade as investors remained reluctant to commit themselves. The Hang Seng Index fell 42.63 to 2,295.08.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier but above early lows on late buying interest and bargain-hunting. The Straits Times Industrial Index shed 0.82 to 1,302.30.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose selectively in hectic trading. Tata Engineering and Locomotive posted a net profit of 700.3 million rupees in the year to March from 269.5 million the year before and the share jumped 24 rupees to 847.5.

FRANKFURT — A flood of foreign orders pushed the DAX Index up 2.5 points to 1,474.61.

ZURICH — Swiss banking shares led the market to a 1989 high. The All-Share Index rose 5.4 points to 1,092.7.

LONDON — Transport strikes made for a quiet day. At 1433 GMT the FTSE Index was 7.1 higher at 2,171.9.

NEW YORK — Morning trading was thin and the Dow Jones was down four to 2469.

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Solidarity supporters tally election winners at union headquarters

The dirty side of Poland pluralism — cleaning up

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — With an exuberance matched only by the novelty of their new democratic parliamentary elections, partisans plastered campaign posters from pillar to post across the country over the last month.

Now the time has come to pay the price of pluralism: cleaning up. But no one has an answer to the question of who should scrub, scrape and wash away the campaign posters and who should bear the cost.

An estimated 700,000 posters went up in Warsaw alone in an astounding display of uncensored campaigning unseen in Poland during 45 years of Communist Party rule.

That represented about 40 tonnes of paper, also a significant figure in a country where university students sometimes don't have anything suitable on which

to type their theses.

Most of the posters came from the Independent Solidarity Movement, which went on to win all but one of the 261 seats available to opposition candidates and hand the government a stinging rebuke in two rounds of voting that started June 4 and ended Sunday.

Now the posters are peeling off apartment block walls and rain has smudged the sentiments of support for a communist coalition candidate whose banner hung along a main city thoroughfare.

"The emotions subsided, the litter remained... who is going to clean it up?" read a recent headline in the daily Solidarity newspaper.

Jan Litynski, head of the Solidarity campaign in Warsaw, promised in the article that the union would work on the cleanup with city authorities.

"But we do not have the money to hire people. We have only debts," Litynski said. "So those who were putting up the posters for free now will... clean them off, too."

Another issue of the newspaper carried a call from 12-year-old Mikolaj Bober, who put up posters all over the Zoliborz section of Warsaw.

"We have to clean it up," he said. "I am eager to do this... and I count on the help of other boys and girls."

The director of the Warsaw Municipal Cleaning Enterprise, Leszek Swierczynski, said the city will clean the sites it administers but building janitors, the bus and tramway services and others will have to take care of their areas.

"There is quite a lot to do... and the whole (cleanup) campaign will surely take a lot of extra money," said Swierczynski.

De Klerk heads for Europe to sell reforms

CAPE TOWN (R) — Future South African President F.W. De Klerk headed for London Tuesday to hawk his apartheid reform agenda in an atmosphere made more hostile by left-wing European parliament gains.

De Klerk, who has had no previous contact with Western leaders, was nominated in February by the ruling white National Party to succeed President P.W. Botha if, as is almost certain, it wins general elections scheduled for Sept. 6.

Officials said he would meet West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Thursday, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday and government leaders in Italy and Portugal.

Party sources said he would meet bankers and investors in Geneva Monday as part of his campaign to break South Africa's political and economic isolation and to halt the spread of anti-apartheid sanctions.

"Mr. De Klerk's tour... will be a baptism of fire," said the pro-government newspaper Die Burger. "He will be fully exposed to the generally unfriendly world opinion on South Africa."

De Klerk, a balding 53-year-

old Afrikaner lawyer from the conservative Transvaal mining town of Vereeniging, has promised to bring South Africa's 26 million blacks into the central government, where they have no voice at present.

But he has insisted that race classification must remain the basis of the political system and that blacks should never be allowed to dominate whites.

Diplomats and analysts were divided on whether De Klerk would offer assurances on the main Western conditions for renewed ties — repeal of apartheid laws and the release of jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

Some said he could not afford to alienate any domestic constituency ahead of the September election for whites, Indians and mixed-race coloureds.

"He is going to have a very, very tough time," said Gary van Staaden of the Johannesburg Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The people he is going to see will want something more specific than the vague promises of reform that he has made so far. They are going to put tough

questions and I don't think he has the answers," he said.

He said left-wing gains in last week's European Parliament elections would increase the pro-sanctions pressure on Thatcher and Kohl, making it more important than ever for them to extract significant concessions from De Klerk.

"The groups that have forged ahead in Europe are the ones who want tougher sanctions," he said.

Professor Mike Hough, political analyst at the University of South Africa, said De Klerk was gambling on his persuasive powers, probably without many specifics on offer.

"A snub would be very damaging to De Klerk right now, but a successful visit would help him in the run-up to the elections. Given South Africa's current isolation from the West it is probably a risk worth taking," Hough said.

One European diplomat said Thatcher was unlikely to press for political promises or a firm date for the release of Mandela, who has served 26 years of a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

START talks in full swing

GENEVA (Agencies) — Fullscale U.S.-Soviet talks on strategic arms cuts resumed Wednesday with the two sides still split on key issues and the Americans set to put forward new ideas on how to guard against cheating.

The full U.S. and Soviet delegations began a six to seven-week session of talks on strategic arms reduction treaty (START), which are aimed at halving their strategic nuclear arsenals, at the U.S. mission in Geneva.

The heads of the two delegations, both new to the job, had met privately Monday, the official opening of an 11th round of negotiations.

Talks were suspended in November to enable the new administration of President George Bush to carry out a defence policy review.

Washington's demand for verification procedures to be tried out before any treaty is one of the most important results to emerge from the U.S. review.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Burt said Tuesday the scheme would give both sides early practical experience in verifying a START agreement.

The Soviet delegation, led by Yuri Nazarkin, has declined comment on the U.S. proposal until Washington provides more details.

The U.S. is also expected to drop previous calls for a ban on

long-range mobile missiles if Congress approves a nuclear modernisation programme. This would involve putting 50 existing MX missiles on railway cars and smaller Midgetman missiles on trucks to match existing mobile Soviet SS-24s and SS-25s.

Nazarkin has said his delegation had not come empty-handed to Geneva but he declined to spell out what fresh proposals the Soviet Union would table to speed completion of a treaty on which negotiations began in 1985.

Both sides have made it clear they stuck to their guns on the issue of whether a START should be linked to a deal curbing the U.S. "Star Wars" project for a ground and space-based anti-missile defence system.

Moscow says deployment of the system would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty since some of the defences being developed are space-based.

But Burt said he did not think a START should be held hostage to an agreement on space defence.

Negotiators will report to their respective governments at the end of the session and Burt said

both sides agreed on the confidentiality of the talks. Few if any progress reports are expected during the Geneva talks.

Burt declined to discuss Bush's proposals in detail Tuesday, but said "we have noticed that the Soviets have taken a much more open and constructive approach on verification in recent years."

Bush's proposal came Monday in Washington.

Burt said the United States and Soviet Union should begin testing verification procedures during negotiations on reducing long-range nuclear forces, rather than waiting until a pact is completed.

Such steps could involve trial inspections at each other's missile sites and discussions about equipment needed for verification, which Bush said could be the most complex issue facing negotiators.

Tuesday's editions of the Washington Post quoted an unidentified official in Washington as saying negotiators plan to suggest around-the-clock monitoring of some ballistic missile factories and on-site checks of missile warheads, to start before any new agreement. The proposal also was reported to include a ban on some missile flight tests.

Burt said another aim of Bush's plan was to build support for Senate ratification of a future arms treaty.

Several superpower arms control treaties, including the 1979 SALT II pact on limiting long-range nuclear arsenals, remained unratified because the Senate decided the verification provisions were lax.

Burt said progress on verification would not become a condition in the START talks.

"We will continue to move on all fronts," he said. "We are not proposing these measures as a take-it-or-leave-it package."

The talks, aimed at reducing U.S. and Soviet long-range bombers, missiles and nuclear submarines by 30 per cent to 50 per cent, are the latest round in negotiations that began four years ago.

Burt said at Tuesday's news conference that their aim is to "speed resolution of outstanding issues and give added momentum."

Under Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's philosophy of openness, Moscow has allowed Western experts to tour a Soviet chemical weapons site for the first time as part of efforts to negotiate a global ban.

U.S. and Soviet scientists also have exchanged visits to each other's nuclear testing sites to examine ways of monitoring two 1970s treaties limiting atomic blasts that the Senate never approved.

'Stricken Soviet liner was going much too fast'

ABOARD THE SENJA, Arctic Ocean (R) — The skipper of a Norwegian coastguard ship which rescued hundreds of passengers from a stricken Soviet cruise liner said Wednesday the Maksim Gorkiy was travelling much too fast when it smashed into a belt of Arctic ice.

"I don't know the exact speed but I was told by crew on board that it had a speed of between 14 and 17 knots at the time of the accident," Sigurd Kleiven, commander of the coastguard vessel Senja, told a news conference aboard his ship.

Asked how fast he would have been going in such foggy conditions with drifting ice around, he replied: "Between

two and three knots."

None of the 990 people aboard the 25,000-ton Soviet liner was hurt in the accident in the early hours of Tuesday. The 611 passengers, most of them elderly West Germans, were flown home Wednesday.

Kleiven said that contrary to earlier reports, the Maksim Gorkiy had not hit an iceberg but had blundered into a huge belt of drift ice about 2.5 metres thick, two nautical miles wide and 12 to 15 miles long.

"We saw no icebergs in the area," he said.

The Senja had to plough through the same barrier of ice to reach the damaged ship and rescue passengers, hundreds of

whom had taken refuge in lifeboats or on ice floes.

Kleiven's estimate of the speed of the Maksim Gorkiy was confirmed by the West German cruise director Winfried Prinz who was aboard the ship at the time of the accident.

He told reporters the vessel was travelling at 18.4 knots.

Crew still aboard the Maksim Gorkiy succeeded in stabilising the ship and patching up the two gashes in its bow opened by the ice.

The liner was sailing slowly Wednesday under its own power towards the Soviet settlement of Barentsburg on the Arctic island of Spitzbergen with about half its crew

aboard.

The collision was the latest in a string of Soviet shipping accidents. Three years ago the liner Admiral Nakhimov sank in the Black Sea with the loss of 389 lives after a collision officially blamed on negligence.

The cruise liner Priamurye caught fire in the Japanese port of Osaka in May last year, killing 11 passengers.

Survivors recall ordeal

The rescued passengers from Maksim Gorkiy attended a midnight church service Wednesday where some wept as they recalled their ordeal, before flying home to West Germany.

Reagan legacy: Supreme Court restricts civil rights

WASHINGTON (R) — A string of U.S. Supreme Court rulings curbing civil rights laws has proved that a cherished Ronald Reagan policy is finally bearing fruit — something he could never quite make it do during his presidency.

Reagan left office five months ago, but his legacy to the Supreme Court of a conservative majority is only now maturing. Many legal experts say the result is a historic shift by the high court in the area of civil rights.

In eight years as president, Reagan was never able to achieve his goal of abolishing "affirmative action" programmes, which give women and minorities preference for hiring and promotion.

Supporters see the programmes as a means of remedying past

discrimination or de facto imbalances in the make-up of the work force, but Reagan and many other conservatives consider them "reverse discrimination" against white males.

By a five-four vote, the Supreme Court has made it harder for women and minorities to bring and win lawsuits alleging discrimination.

On top of that, the court last week ruled that white males may challenge job preferences given women and minorities years after a judge approves the preferences.

In another decision, the justices narrowed the scope of one key anti-discrimination law by saying it applies only to hiring contracts and not to racial harassment on the job.

The new conservative majority

that prevailed in these rulings consists of three Reagan appointees — Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy. The others are William Rehnquist, who was elevated to chief justice by Reagan, and Byron White.

The shift to the conservative side was finally achieved by Reagan's appointment of Kennedy to the seat vacated by the 1987 retirement of moderate Lewis Powell. Alarmed liberals blocked Reagan's original appointment of arch-conservative Robert Bork, but Kennedy is clearly a solid conservative in his own right.

University of Virginia law Professor A.E. Howard said: "For a quarter of a century, civil rights cases have been special. The sig-



Ronald Reagan

nal from the court is that civil rights cases, and blacks as a class of litigants, are no longer special. They are subjected to the same rules as anyone else."



Caged... a Vietnamese child in a Hong Kong refugee camp

Boat people — a growing dilemma

By Peter Eng
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Every few minutes, a jet leaving Kai Tak airport soars with a loud screech directly over the Sham Shui Po detention centre for Vietnamese boat people.

Ex-soldier Pham Ngoc Quang and the other 6,650 Vietnamese here want to take the flights to the United States and other Western countries — the objective of their long, hazardous journey to Hong Kong by boat.

But the people of Hong Kong want to fly them all right back to Vietnam.

Pham, who paid a smuggler eight gold rings for the boat passage, insists he left "not to be fed... but to find freedom." But he appears to be among the large, growing number of "economic migrants" who have overwhelmed facilities and patience in Hong Kong and other Asian nations and prompted demands they be forcibly repatriated.

Pham fought for the communist North Vietnam army, whose overthrow the U.S.-backed South Vietnam government in April 1975 began the boat exodus. More than a million have fled but Western nations are increasingly reluctant to resettle them.

Boats carrying 369 Vietnamese arrived in Hong Kong Saturday, bringing arrivals this year to 20,327, compared with about 19,000 all of last year, a government spokesman said.

A boat of 105 Vietnamese landed in Japan Friday after a 38-day sail; a police official quoted them as saying "they just wanted to go somewhere where they could enjoy a higher standard of living."

'Refugee status'

For 14 years, much of the world community considered anyone fleeing Vietnam a refugee entitled to stay in camps of countries where they land and to quick resettlement in the West. Officials began mulling forced repatriation as peasants from northern Vietnam and others who appeared to be seeking easier living conditions flooded out in more recent years. But few people openly endorsed forced repatriation.

"Now many countries are sick of the refugee problem, especially when faced with people who are not real refugees," Prachyadavi Tavekul, deputy spokesman of Thailand's Foreign Ministry, said Friday.

Britain and its densely populated colony of Hong Kong called for forced return of those who did not flee for political reasons, saying this is done with

illegal immigrants everywhere. Hong Kong Governor David Wilson said this was the humane course because they would otherwise continue to sail in unsafe boats only to suffer prolonged detention in camps.

But Vietnam repeated it would not accept those forced to return. Only 143 of the more than 40,000 Vietnamese in Hong Kong have returned voluntarily.

The United States said it opposed forced repatriation unless economic, social and political conditions in Vietnam dramatically improve. Critics said Washington was trying to prove that the communists who defeated the U.S.-backed government were violating human rights.

A tougher stand was formally endorsed at the 60-nation Indochinese refugee conference in Geneva last week.

The conference did not endorse forced repatriation, but adopted a plan for screening all new arrivals to determine if they can be granted refugee status. It urged efforts to encourage voluntary return and said if this did not work, alternatives would be examined.

The conference also produced pledges from several countries to resettle a total of

53,500 Vietnamese refugees over the next three years.

At least privately, some officials in Thailand and Malaysia have declared forced repatriation to be the only solution. Many Vietnamese continue to sail there despite increasingly violent pirate attacks and the screening procedures these and four neighbouring countries agreed to in March.

According to government spokesman Suvit Yodmani of Thailand, two Vietnamese women came ashore there May 30 and said pirates attacked their boat and killed the other 18 passengers. On June 1, fishermen picked up three Vietnamese after their boat of 40 people capsized, said Suvit, who had no details.

Local resentment

Citizens have stepped up protests against the boat people as they fear for their own future after 1997, when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule. Authorities Friday postponed opening a new detention centre after protests by local residents. Some citizens say the Vietnamese should not be allowed to land.

In Hong Kong, some relief officials say the conditions in government detention sites are "inhuman."

In the camps, northern and southern Vietnamese clash and people stage daily hunger strikes to protest their classification as illegal immigrants.

"Just be careful when you walk by. Some may be very violent," a government worker warned a reporter visiting Sham Shui Po.

Many Vietnamese appeared dejected and listless in the camp, a former army barracks surrounded by a high metal wall topped with barbed wire. Across the street, a billboard advertising American cigarettes features a high picture of the Statue of Liberty.

Even the relief agency Oxfam Hong Kong has backed forced repatriation. But its director, Chris Bale, said the root of the problem lies in the conditions in Vietnam prompting flight, and few solutions for this were offered at Geneva.

"We're talking about one of the world's poorest countries ostracised by the world community for 10 years, still bearing the scars of a very long and bitter war," he said.

He urged the United States to free up trade and aid for Vietnam by immediately normalising diplomatic relations with the country. Washington says it won't do so before Vietnam resolves the conflict over its decade-old military occupation of Cambodia.



Fugitive wins Euro seats and his liberty

MADRID (R) — A fugitive Spanish tycoon who won two seats in the European Parliament after a campaign on the run from police secured his freedom Tuesday.

Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos, head of the expropriated industrial holding Rumasa, was granted unconditional liberty after a Madrid court dropped an arrest warrant against him. The judge told him the supreme court would have to decide what immunities he enjoyed as a member of the Strasbourg-based assembly and whether he could be brought to trial on charges of fraud and assaulting a former government minister.

"The judge was very correct, very friendly, and did his duty marvellously," Ruiz-Mateos said. Ruiz-Mateos, who jumped bail to conduct his maverick campaign from hiding, cocked a snook mainstream politicians by gaining 3.85 per cent of the vote in last Thursday's election for his party, the Group of Voters of Ruiz-Mateos. Under Spain's system of proportional representation, this gives Ruiz-Mateos two of Spain's 60 parliament seats. He said he will give the second seat to his son-in-law, Carlos Perreau.

Spain's ruling Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) said the vote for Ruiz-Mateos came from the far right. He grabbed headlines last month when he slapped former Finance Minister Miguel Boyer when they met in a Madrid court. Ruiz-Mateos considers Boyer responsible for the 1983 expropriation of Rumasa.

Passport returned after beer incident

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African university professor whose passport was confiscated last year after he poured a glass of beer over a security policeman's head during an argument has had his travel documents returned. The South African Press Association reported Tuesday that Rhodes University academic Peter Vale got his passport back after opposition parliamentarians made representations to Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha. South Africa's white minority government, seeking to stifle anti-apartheid protest, regularly turns down passport applications.

Transplant swindler held for murder

TOKYO (AP) — A doctor was arrested Tuesday after confessing that he obtained 25 million yen (\$174,000) from a patient for a promised kidney transplant and then killed the patient, police said. A Police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the doctor as Jun Hirose, a urologist at Hamamatsu medical college, 200 kilometres west of Tokyo. The official said Hirose confessed that April 10, after receiving the money in his personal bank account, he gave patient Masao Nakagawa, 61, a drug. Nakagawa died the next day of heart failure. The official would not disclose the type of drug.

Jilted prom date receives settlement

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — A girl who was stood up for a high school prom received a check for \$81 and 28 cents for her date Tuesday to settle a dispute she had threatened to drag through small claims court. Tomonira Mangrum, 15, a sophomore, sued Marlon Shadd, 17, a senior at another school, after he begged off their date claiming he had an injured ankle.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	14	57	26 79 Clear
ATHENS	12	54	30 86 Clear
BAHRAIN	28	82	36 97 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	31 88 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	89	48	16 60 Cloudy
CHICAGO	20	78	38 90 Clear
CHONGKING	16	80	26 78 Clear
COPTENHAGEN	16	61	28 82 Clear
FRANKFURT	15	59	30 86 Clear
GENEVA	12	54	28 82 Clear
HONG KONG	25	77	27 81 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	15	59	24 75 Clear
LONDON	10	61	24 78 Clear
LOS ANGELES	21	59	34 93 Clear
MADRID	17	63	33 91 Rain
MECCA	26	79	44 111 Clear
MONTREAL	15	59	25 77 Cloudy
MOSCOW	16	61	28 82 Clear
NEW DELHI	28	85	39 101 Clear
NEW YORK	19	57	27 81 Rain
PARIS	19	66	30 86 Clear
ROME	11	52	28 92 Clear
TOKYO	16	61	23 73 Clear
VIENNA	12	54	18 66 Rain